



THE



TIMES

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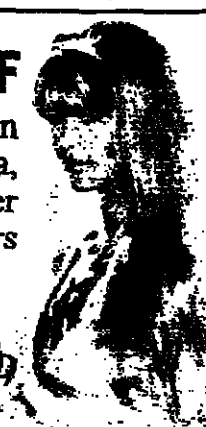
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# Heseltine and Patten attack Hague

## Tory split reopened over Europe

By JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE



Hague under fire

MICHAEL HESELTINE yesterday launched another damaging attack on William Hague, plunging the Tory party into even deeper crisis after its humiliating defeat in the Winchester by-election.

The former Deputy Prime Minister reopened Tory divisions over Europe by giving his full backing to Peter Temple-Morris, the pro-European MP, who resigned from the Conservatives yesterday after having the party whip withdrawn.

Mr Hague's difficulties were compounded last night when Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, also delivered a thinly veiled attack on his leadership,

warning him not to be "nationalistic". In a magazine article, the former party chairman calls on Mr Hague to do more to stamp his mark on the political landscape and warns that he will prolong his spell in opposition unless he takes a more pragmatic approach on Europe.

As the Tories were struggling to come to terms with the by-election result in Winchester when Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat saw his majority soar from two votes to 21,000, Mr Heseltine openly criticised the Tory leader for removing

the whip from Mr Temple-Morris. "I think it's an unwise and unnecessary decision. Peter Temple-Morris has loyally supported Conservative prime minister one after the other as they sought to establish Britain's self-interest in Europe," he said.

"He represents a stream of opinion within the Conservative Party that we should seek to encourage, not to divorce."

Mr Heseltine rocked the boat earlier this month, when he criticised Mr Hague's decision to take such a hard-line on the single currency, by

ruling it out for ten years. Mr Patten went further, in an article in *The World in 1998*, which is published by *The Economist*.

He wrote: "Mr Hague should avoid the nasty rightwing nationalism found elsewhere in Europe. Being tainted with it would ensure only that Mr Blair's tenure of his present position is much longer than Mr Hague would like."

Tory strategists were determined to bolster morale after the disastrous result in the Winchester by-election suffered by Gerry Malone, the for-

mer Aberdeen Tory MP. There was little comfort either from the Beckenham by-election where Jacqui Lait scraped home with a much reduced majority of 1,227.

But the party's tactic to take revenge and boost Mr Hague's authority by withdrawing the whip from Mr Temple-Morris backfired. The MP for Leominster, who has been threatening to defect to Labour, immediately announced his resignation and said he would sit as an independent Conservative on the Labour benches despite several attempts by Tony Blair to make him go the whole way and join the Labour Party.



Leading article and Letters, page 23

Malone: disaster poll

# Child sex police raid two public schools

By STEWART TENDLER AND PAUL WILKINSON

TWO leading Northern public schools were raided yesterday by detectives in a national police operation against a suspected child pornography ring.

Sedburgh School in Cumbria and Durham School were among 15 addresses visited in dawn raids. Homes in London, Hampshire, Merseyside, Surrey, West Mercia and Wiltshire were also searched during an investigation code-named Operation Clarence.

The suspects include three teachers and a former teacher but senior detectives said that the investigation is not centred on schools. They said the suspects came from a variety of backgrounds and a number of them knew each other. Police refused to comment on any links with a series of raids on private schools over the past two years or investigations "into sex tourism in countries such as Thailand."

No arrests were made yesterday but police said a large quantity of films, papers and computer material was seized for examination. Police have yet to discover whether they are dealing with a suspected distribution network or whether material has been photographed or filmed by suspects.

As police began sifting through the material, officers

from Scotland Yard's paedophile and child pornography squad, which led the operation, said hundreds of video films were taken for viewing.

Detective Chief Inspector Jim Reynolds, head of the squad, said: "This is a major operation that has been going on for about three years. This is a result of intelligence gathering by all the forces involved and a quantity of material has been seized, including videos, computer equipment and correspondence. I am hopeful this will lead to prosecutions and further intelligence."

Sedburgh, which has 344 boys and fees of more than £12,000 a year, was attended by former England rugby captain Will Carling. Durham is a mixed school with 134 pupils and fees over £10,000.

Cumbria police said material was taken from living quarters at Sedburgh which is not an area used by pupils. Material, including video tapes and other equipment was seized from Durham School and a private house.

Christopher Hirst, the headmaster of Sedburgh, said: "I can confirm that the police have requested the school's co-operation in certain inquiries they are conducting. As yet we have not been made aware in detail of the reasons for the inquiries. The school continues to function normally."

Other addresses raided include a home in Donhead St Andrew, south of Salisbury. Hampshire police made a number of searches and material was taken. One address in Merseyside was searched in Merseyside but nothing was seized. Videos were taken from an address in Worcester by West Mercia police.

An address in Surrey was also checked but nothing was taken. In London police raided addresses in Harrow, Chesham, Islington, Croydon and Albany Street near Regent's Park. Police are known to have launched investigations into links between private schools and child pornography after allegations from a former teacher at Abberley Hall in Herefordshire in 1995. Last year two staff at Hurstpierpoint College in Sussex were dismissed after being given a police caution for possessing indecent material.

In August this year the body of Adrian Stark, director of music at St John's School, Leatherhead, Surrey, was found at the base of Beachy Head after he had been charged with three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children. He had formerly taught at Hurstpierpoint.



Canary Wharf and the Millennium Dome photographed from near the Thames Barrier. A brochure coming out next week will extol the dome's "fun and fascination"

# Case dropped against alleged USAF hacker

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A SUSPECTED hacker charged with breaking into US Air Force computers causing damage estimated at £300,000 walked free from court yesterday.

Matthew Bevan, 23, smiled as he left Belmarsh Crown Court, south-east London, with representatives of a tabloid newspaper six months after a London teenager, Richard Pryce, was fined £1,200 for admitting similar offences carried out when he was sixteen.

Prosecutors decided it was not in the public interest to pursue a costly case expected to last up to three months involving witnesses flown from America to give evidence against Bevan, the son of a Fraud Squad detective.

The decision comes three and a half years after two hackers codenamed Kuji and Datastream Cowboy used the

Internet to penetrate Rome Laboratories, the US Air Force's premier command and control research facility at Griffiss Base in New York.

Sources close to the US investigation said the intrusions had "serious implications" but did not involve national security. According to a report to the US Senate Affairs Committee the intruders gained access in March 1994 to unclassified files held at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and computers belonging to Lockheed.

Pryce, from Colindale, north London, who went on to win a scholarship to study the double bass at the Royal College of Music, was fined after he admitted 12 charges of gaining unauthorised access under the Computer Misuse Act. Magistrates heard that he "caused more harm than the KGB".

Another institution alleged-

ly penetrated by the pair was Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where wilder elements among UFO conspiracy theorists believe alien spacecraft are secretly held.

Bevan, who cheerfully acknowledges being obsessed with aliens, nevertheless denied three charges of gaining unauthorised access to USAF and Lockheed computers between March and May 1994.

The charges related to the alteration of data by the alleged insertion of a "sniffer" program designed to gain access to systems.

The investigation was carried out by Scotland Yard's specialist Computer Crime Unit and the US Air Force's Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

Initial charges of conspiracy against the pair were discontinued at an earlier hearing.

The hacker's world, page 4

# Army horses outrank tanks

By MICHAEL EVANS AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE ARMY now owns more horses than tanks, a Government "Domesday Book" of national assets will reveal. The register, to be published by the Treasury, is expected to show that on April 1 there were 396 Challenger tanks and 483 horses.

Horses are the only live assets in the list because they have a value of more than £500 each.

Not included are the Army's 1,800 dogs and regimental mascots - two goats, one black buck, one roan, two

Shetland ponies, one wolfhound, one drum horse, one ferret and a tiger.

The ratio of horses to tanks in the Army has varied since the Second World War, from the days when there were mule packs as well as horses, and some colonial armies were mounted. The Army used mules to deliver food and other stores to British troops during the early peace-keeping days in Bosnia and they were hired locally.

The register will list every government department's possessions that have any value.

The MoD will take up half

the register of assets because of its huge stock of properties - more than 90,000 - as well as its weapon systems and training land. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will use the register to pave the way for a new round of state sell-offs.

However, the main area for cuts at the MoD will be in its portfolio of properties and estates. The Armed Forces have already faced significant cutbacks in equipment.

Apart from the 386 Challengers, there are 386 of the new Challenger 2 tank on order but when they come into service they will replace the older Challengers.

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## TODAY IN THE TIMES



**'She looked more at ease with herself than she has done for years'**

Alan Hamilton on the Queen, PAGES 8 and 9



**'I always fall in love with people I work with'**

Valerie Grove meets Sally Potter, PAGE 21



**'I may grow a Hemingway beard'**

Ken Clarke on his new image, PAGE 30

# Campaigners for disabled reject plan to cut benefits

The Government wants to concentrate state help on the most severely handicapped. Jill Sherman reports

CAMPAIGNERS for the disabled yesterday reacted strongly against government plans to cut benefits for the 6.5 million disabled people in Britain and force many into work.

Ministers confirmed that the Government was drawing up proposals to restructure the five main benefits for the sick and disabled as part of the Treasury's spending review.

The main objective is to try to get as many people as possible into work so that benefits can be concentrated on those with the most severe handicaps. Options being considered include taxing, means-testing or time-limiting some benefits and replacing others with insurance-based schemes.

But the plans, backed by Gordon Brown and Harriet

Harman, the Social Security Secretary, which are still at an early stage, have already caused a row in the Cabinet. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, are said to be strongly opposed to many of the suggestions, and the Liberal Democrats have called for a full Commons debate on the issue.

Lorna Reith, director of the Disability Alliance, an umbrella group for 300 disabled groups, said: "We are appalled that the Government is prepared to consider options that will reduce the living standards of disabled people

so drastically. We are very concerned that if they remove disability benefits from disabled people who work it will make it impossible for them to continue working."

Mencap, representing mentally handicapped people, said: "The reality is people have low incomes and high expenses. The facts are against the Government and the public will be against them. For a severely disabled person not in employment, total benefit levels are a small fraction of the earnings non-disabled workers take for granted."

Lord Morris of Manchester, a long-time campaigner for

the disabled and the architect of many of their benefits, was also furious about the plans. The former Labour MP pointed out that disabled people had had no real income increase since 1980, when the Government broke the link between benefits and prices.

He also insisted that all disabled people would prefer to be in work than on benefit. "There is not a single person who would not prefer to have the independence and dignity of the taxpayer rather than dependence on social security," Lord Morris said.

The disability bill has risen from £4.1 billion in 1982 to

£23.5 billion last year and is now responsible for nearly a quarter of the £100 billion social security bill. Ministers are determined not only to curb the growth but to cut the bill by trying to get more disabled people into work.

A spokesman from the Department of Social Security said: "Ministers want to ensure that the DSS helps those who can get into work get into work, and gives appropriate support to those who cannot get into work."

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that any future proposals would be entirely consistent with manifesto pledges. "People supported us because we were prepared to review government spending right across the board."



The Austin 10 in the shadow of a Spitfire at the RAF Museum yesterday. Churchill preferred the car to something more ostentatious

## Churchill's wartime car up for sale

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING EDITOR

IT WAS hardly a stately transport for a wartime leader of such stature, but Winston Churchill loved his little Austin 10, so much so that he refused to exchange it for something more ostentatious.

When Lady Churchill decided to trade the black Austin 10 in for a grander model befitting her husband's position, he ordered her to go back to the dealer and bring his Austin home.

Now the car which captured the affections of Britain's wartime Prime Minister could fall into foreign hands when it comes up for sale. Collectors from around Europe have contacted Sotheby's which auction the Cambridge saloon on Monday at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, northwest London. The price is between £4,000 and £6,000, but this could be a conservative estimate because of the car's 12-year ownership by Churchill.

Sotheby's said: "We would hope a British buyer will come forward for a car with such wonderful associations with a heroic figure in British history. Clearly, though, it has attracted interest from a lot of people around the world, particularly in

Europe, so the car might, unfortunately, leave Britain."

Churchill had a curious attachment to his Austin, one of the most unimpressive models of the pre-war years and manufactured at a time when Rolls-Royce, Daimler, Bentley and Land Rover were all making majestic models with worldwide reputations for quality and performance. Reputation obviously did not matter to Churchill as much as reliability, or perhaps he had high regard for Herbert Austin, founder of the Birmingham carmaker and a resolute patriot.

In any event, the logbook shows Churchill's signature as the first owner, taking delivery of EYH 409 on June 3, 1938. The little four-door is hardly luxurious, its red leather interior no more than spartan and the six-up-and-beg driving seat seemingly too small for Churchill's ample frame. Even the ashtray seems hardly big enough to cope with his legendary cigars, though there is a sliding sunroof and folding windscreen.

Power was also not a premium feature: the car's 1,125cc, four-cylinder could generate only 10 horse power so a fair wind at the rear would be needed to struggle past the 40mph mark. The Austin did have one exclusive feature: a new type of pressed steel "easy clean" spoked wheels, though it is hard to imagine the former Prime Minister going at them with bucket and sponge.

Churchill used the car throughout the war years, famously photographed by the bonnet of the Austin during one of his frequent outings. He sold the car in 1950 but it was bought at auction in 1967 by the sixth Marquess of Bath for £1,350 and kept at the Longleat estate in Wiltshire. A restoration in 1983, costing £6,335, has put the car in the near-new condition that Churchill enjoyed. The present marquess is selling the car to clear space as part of a rearrangement of his estate.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Hague declines to name Tory donors

William Hague has rejected a challenge from Tony Blair to disclose the names of donors who have given money to the Conservative Party in recent years. Mr Hague said in a letter that it would "dishonourable" to release details of people who had given money on a confidential basis.

The Labour leadership hopes to overcome its recent embarrassment over its U-turn on tobacco sponsorship, and a donation to the party from the Formula One chief, Bernie Ecclestone, by focusing on the Conservatives' refusal to disclose details about its donors. In the Commons this week, Mr Blair offered to name Labour's donors going back ten years if the Tories would do the same. Mr Hague refused to be drawn. Mr Hague has now rejected the Prime Minister's challenge in his letter to Mr Blair yesterday, which was copied to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog.

## Bruno marriage denial

Frank Bruno, right, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has denied "wild allegations" in the press that his marriage was in trouble after he had assaulted his wife. The denial by Mr Bruno, 36, of Standon Massey, near Brentwood, Essex, came a day after Laura Bruno, 34, went to the High Court to obtain an order banning her husband from "assaulting, molesting or harassing her".



## Legal aid reform pledge

The Government pledged to end the legal aid system as a "machine primarily for paying lawyers' bills" when it unveiled new details of plans to scrap civil legal aid and bring in "no win, no fee" work. In a attack on the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme as a "subsidy for lawyers", Geoff Hoon, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said money which could be spent on the sick and injured was being "gobbled up in legal aid".

## A-level appeals move

Leading girls' schools are calling for a review of A-level procedures because they fear that pressure from parents on schools to challenge grades is threatening the credibility of the examination. The number of appeals has risen sharply in recent years. London-based members of the Girls' Schools Association have demanded action to reduce the number of appeals and to tighten up marking sufficiently to cut the proportion of candidates being upgraded.

## Hospital deaths inquiry

Police are investigating an allegation that elderly, terminally ill patients in a ward at the psychiatric Kingsway Hospital, Derby, were starved until they became so weak that they died from infections. A member of staff is understood to have reported suspicions about the deaths in a ward where many patients suffer from dementia and are difficult to feed. Derbyshire police and South Derbyshire Mental Health Trust confirmed that the investigation began a fortnight ago.

## Hostage warder freed

Prison staff equipped with riot gear stormed an office where a warder was being held captive after fears for his safety suddenly mounted. The prison officer had been held for more than 18 hours by two inmates at a young offender institute. He received cuts and bruises and was badly shaken during the operation at D-wing of the Castington secure unit near Morpeth in Northumberland. Both prisoners, who were not hurt, were arrested.

## Kennel maid 'had CJD'

A 20-year-old woman is thought to have become the 22nd person to die from a form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease linked with eating contaminated beef. Vicky Rimmer, of Connah's Quay, Aberconwy, had been in a coma for four years. Her body has been sent to Edinburgh for a post-mortem examination by a specialist CJD unit. Doctors believe that Miss Rimmer, a kennels worker, was infected by new variant CJD, which strikes its victims at a much younger age.

## Man fined for shouting

A man who screamed at his wife so loudly that her hearing was permanently damaged was fined £450. Plymouth Crown Court was told that Peter Pryor, 58, who suffers from tinnitus, shouted at his wife, Christine: "I am going to make you suffer like I do." Judge Jeremy Griggs ordered Pryor, who had denied assault causing actual bodily harm, to carry out 150 hours' community service. The couple divorced last year.

## MP attacked by dogs



The Labour MP Joe Benton, left, was recovering yesterday after two lurchers attacked him while he was jogging in a London park. "I had one literally hanging off my arm by his teeth, while the other started tearing into my thigh," said the 61-year-old MP for Bootle, who spent five hours in casualty being given stitches. "I was left with blood running down my leg and in quite a state of shock. It was terrifying."

## Manor from heaven

Richard Spurgeon, the manager of Colchester Zoo, has been given a 32-room house set in 12½ acres. The house, Meadow Croft in Earls Colne, Essex, had been left to its housekeeper, Jean Last, by a local businessman, Ruben Hunt, with an instruction that she give it to charity. Miss Last could find no charity willing to take the property on and so gave it to Mr Spurgeon, who has a wife and two children. His mother Pat used to deliver groceries to the house.

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# Hollywood ushers in its top 100

The US film industry is planning to celebrate a century of movie-making with an all-American cast. Giles Whittell in Los Angeles reports on an attempt to pick its 100 best works

NEVER shy of self-aggrandisement, the American film industry is choosing 100 great feature films to mark the hundredth anniversary of the American cinema — all of them made or financed in the United States.

*Citizen Kane*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz* all seem certain to make the list; *Chariots of Fire* stands an outside chance; Laurence Olivier's *Henry V* has no chance at all.

This is a landmark moment for American films, the great art form of the 20th century, said Jean Picker Firstenberg, the head of the American Film Institute (AFI), which is compiling the list, at a press conference on Wednesday. "American film-makers set the standard for the world."

Critics of Hollywood's relentlessly commercial video fodder may beg to differ. Admirers of the work of Federico Fellini, Sergei Eisenstein, James Ivory and others will certainly howl in protest. Nonetheless, the long list of 400 films being sent to 1,500 American film luminaries, as well as the Clinton and Gore families, does contain some classics.

*Casablanca*, *Chinatown*, *The Graduate* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* are all included. So are *Ben-Hur*, *Scarface*, *Pulp Fiction* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Since it was largely financed in America, *The English Patient* is a contender. Last year's lamentable *Jerry Maguire* is also on the shortlist, presumably for touching the deeply sentimental chord that can make a film a hit in the Midwest even if it flops abroad. *Forrest Gump*, in the same category, is likewise in the top 400.

Planked by the peerless Dustin Hoffman and the boy-next-door appeal of Chris O'Donnell (known to millions of teenagers as Batman's latest Robin), Ms Firstenberg made it clear this week that critical acclaim was by no means her only criterion. Voters are also being asked to consider major award winners, popularity over time, historical significance and cultural impact. On these grounds, Steven Spielberg and George Lucas are likely to walk tall in the centennial pantheon. With ten films between them on the shortlist, their popularity and cultural impact cannot be doubted, even if their artistic genius can: *Jaws*, *ET*, *Jurassic Park* and the *Star Wars* trilogy have, if nothing else, trained millions of filmgoers to expect an all-out sensory assault for the price of their ticket, as well as a good story.

British actors and directors are not excluded entirely, thanks to their willingness to work with US studios. Hitchcock, the inventor of the thriller, has five films on the list. David Lean has three — *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Dr Zhivago* — each of which bears out President Woodrow

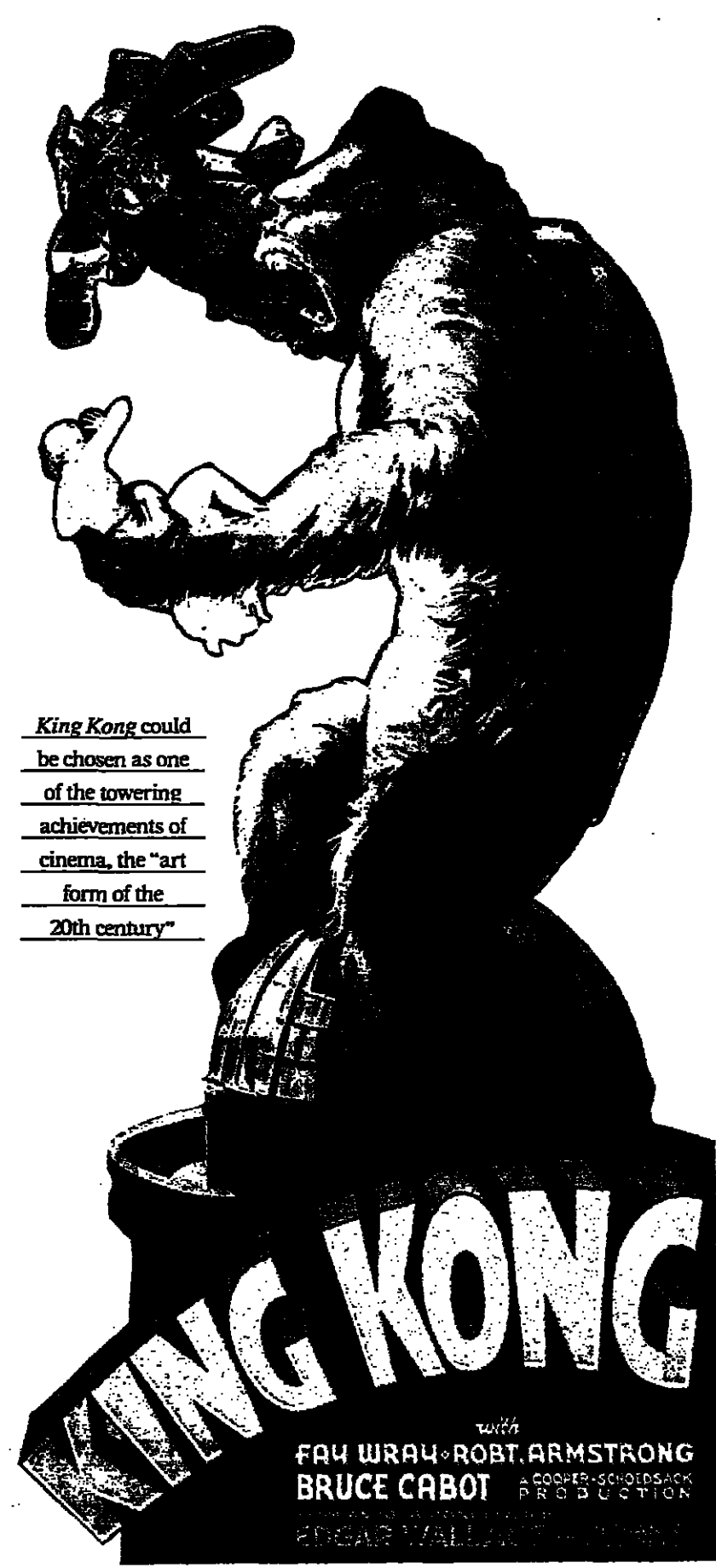
Wilson's exclamation that the movies, at their best, are "like history writ in lightning". Peter Sellers and Sean Connery sneak into the overwhelmingly American line-up (in *Dr Strangelove*, *The Pink Panther* and *From Russia With Love*), but Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* is conspicuously absent from a list clearly aimed at the hearts — and wallets — of Middle America.

Though known mainly for film conservation, the AFI hopes to turn its top 100 into a cash bonanza: all 100 films will eventually go on sale in a special edition for video collectors. Buyers will find Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart in nine films each.

The sales pitch has begun already. "As we leave this century and reflect on its defining moments, among the most extraordinary and important would have to be the American movie," Ms Firstenberg said in a press release, betraying precisely the Hollywood-centred world view for which so many American films have been justly criticised.

"Movies are truly the triumph of the 20th century," she concluded. So much for quantum theory, powered flight and global vaccination programmes.

King Kong could be chosen as one of the towering achievements of cinema, the "art form of the 20th century"



## Reel art likely to draw in auction crowds

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A 1931 poster from the film *Frankenstein*, described by experts as the "most sought-after film poster ever made", is expected to fetch more than \$600,000 (£375,000) at an auction of early cinema posters to be held at Christie's, New York. The present record is \$453,500 for a 1932 poster of *The Mummy*.

The *Frankenstein* poster, in which Boris Karloff's face glows as he made of live coals, is one of a richly lurid selection from the horror genre, including a 1935 "jumbo window card" of *The Bride of Frankenstein*, a 1931 poster portraying Bela Lugosi in *Dracula*, and a splendidly outré 1941 poster of *The Wolf Man*.

Bruce Hershenov, the movie poster consultant for Christie's, said that horror posters were by far the most popular with buyers — and the most expensive. "There's the rarity factor, of course, because most of these films were made between 1927 and 1935, a period from which few posters survive. But I like to think the real reason is that these are the films that impressed buyers most when they were children. People remember being frightened out of their skin by them."

Richard Allen, co-author of *Reel Art: Great Posters from the Golden Age of the Silver Screen*, explained that the cachet that attaches to horror film posters could also be because they are "always visually stunning". He added: "Personally, they're not my favourites, but I'll concede that they're often the most imaginative works of art."

Mr Allen emphasised that the early Hollywood posters were "so good" because they "had to act as magnets. They had to draw crowds. So they were a compelling blend of commercial drive and art that was arresting." Other posters at the auction, expected to delight collectors, include the best range of Charlie Chaplin posters ever assembled, such as *Those Love Pangs* and *The Gold Rush* and *Modern Times*. Each could fetch up to \$75,000.

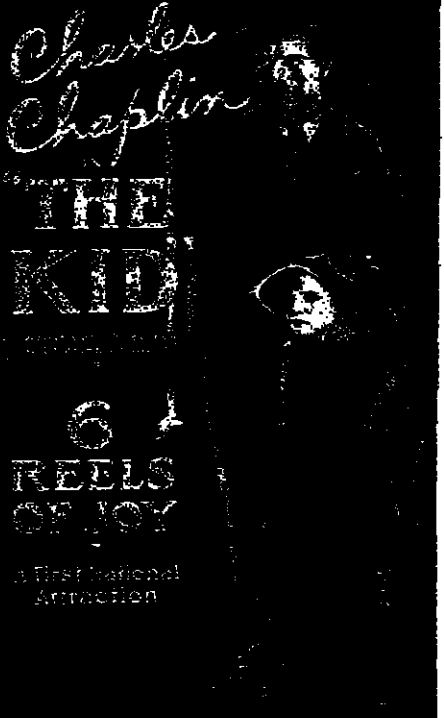
## Film buffs' short list captures a century of cinema memories

Richard III. The Birth of a Nation. The Cheat. Intolerance. The Poor Little Rich Girl.

1929-1929  
Winter. Our Caesar. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The Kid. Safety Last. The Thief of Bagdad. The Big Parade. The Gold Rush. Greed. The Phantom of the Opera. Ben-Hur. The General. The Jazz Singer. Sunrise. Wings. The Crowd. The Wind. The Broadway Melody.

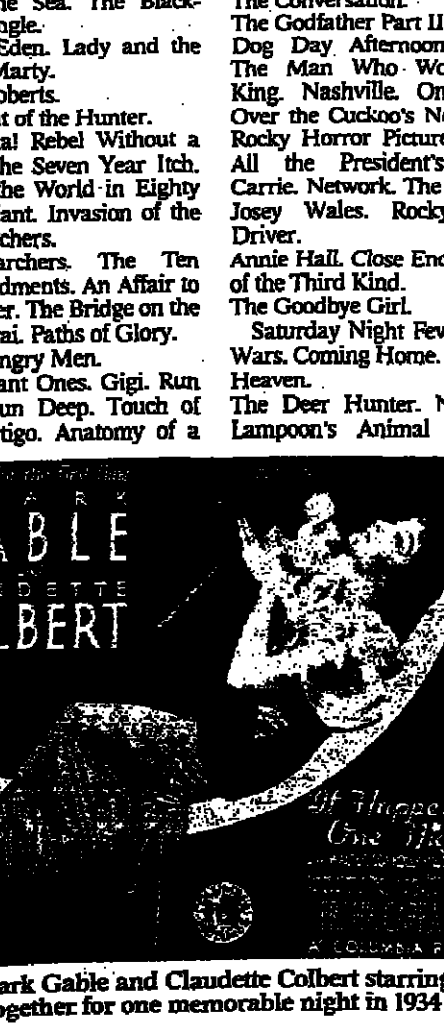
All Quiet on the Western Front. Little Caesar. Morocco. Cimarron. City Lights. Frankenstein. The Public Enemy. Freaks. Grand Hotel. I am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang. Scarface. The Shame of a Nation. Trouble in Paradise. Cavalcade. Duck Soup. 42nd Street. King Kong. She Done Him Wrong. Sons of the Desert. It Happened One Night. The Scarlet Empress. The Thin Man. David Copperfield. The Little Colonel. Mutiny on the Bounty. A Night at the Opera. Top Hat. Dodsworth. Fury. The Great Ziegfeld. Mr Deeds Goes to Town. Modern Times. My Man Godfrey. Swingtime. The Awful Truth. Camille. The Life of Emile Zola. Lost Horizon. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. A Star is Born. The Adventures of Robin Hood. Boys Town. Bringing up Baby. You Can't Take it With You. Babes in Arms. Beau Geste. Destry Rides Again. Gone with the Wind. Goodbye Mr Chips. Gunga Din. Mr Smith goes to Washington. Ninotchka. Only Angels Have Wings. Stagecoach. The Wizard of Oz. Wuthering Heights. Young Mr Lincoln.

1929-1929  
The Bank Dick. Fantasia. The Grapes of Wrath. His Girl Friday. The Mark of Zorro. The Philadelphia Story. Pinocchio. Rebecca. Citizen Kane. How Green Was My Valley. The Lady Eve. The Little Foxes. The Maltese Falcon. Sergeant York. Sullivan's Travels. Bambi. Casablanca. Cat People. The Magnificent Ambersons. Mrs Miniver. Now, Voyager. The Pride of the Yankees. Road to Morocco. To Be or Not to Be. Woman of the Year. Yankee Doodle Dandy. Bataan. Cabin in the Sky. The Ox-Bow Incident. Shadow of a Doubt. Double Indemnity. Going My Way. Hall the Conquering Hero. Laura. Meet Me in St Louis. The Miracle of Morgan's Creek. Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo. To Have and Have Not. The Lost Weekend. The Best Years of Our Lives. The Big Sleep. Gilda. It's a Wonderful Life. My Darling Clementine. Notorious. The Yearling. Gentlemen's Agreement. Miracle on 34th Street. Out of the Past. Force of Evil. Red River. The Treasure of the Sierra Madre. Adam's Rib. All



Chaplin's first full-length feature. In Cold Blood. In the Heat of the Night. The Jungle Book. The Producers. Two for the Road. Bullitt. Funny Girl. Night of the Living Dead. Oliver! Planet of the Apes. Rosemary's Baby. 2001: A Space Odyssey. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Easy Rider. Medium Cool. Midnight Cowboy. The Wild Bunch.

1970-1979  
Five Easy Pieces. Little Big Man. Love Story. M\*A\*S\*H. Patton. A Clockwork Orange. Dirty Harry. Fiddler on the Roof. The French Connection. The Last Picture Show. McCabe and Mrs Miller. Cabaret. Deliverance. The Godfather. Sounder. American Graffiti. Badlands. The Exorcist. Last Tango in Paris. Mean Streets. The Sting. The Way We Were. Blazing Saddles. Chinatown. The Conversation. The Godfather Part II. Dog Day Afternoon. Jaws. The Man Who Would Be King. Nashville. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. The Rocky Horror Picture Show. All the President's Men. Carrie. Network. The Outlaw Josey Wales. Rocky. Taxi Driver. Annie Hall. Close Encounters of the Third Kind. The Godfather Part III. Saturday Night Fever. Star Wars. Coming Home. Days of Heaven. The Deer Hunter. National Lampoon's Animal House.



Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert starring together for one memorable night in 1934

Murder. Ben-Hur. The Diary of Anne Frank. Imitation of Life. North by Northwest. On the Beach. Pillow Talk. Shadows. Some Like It Hot.

1940-1949  
The Apartment. Elmer Gantry. Psycho. Spartacus. Breakfast at Tiffany's. El Cid. The Hustler. Judgement at Nuremberg. One Hundred and One Dalmatians. A Raisin in the Sun. Splendor in the Grass. West Side Story. Days of Wine and Roses. Lawrence of Arabia. The Longest Day. The Manchurian Candidate. To Kill a Mockingbird. What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? The Birds. Cleopatra. From Russia With Love. It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World. The Pink Panther. Tom Jones. The Americanisation of Emily. Dr Strangelove. Goldfinger. Mary Poppins. My Fair Lady. Cat Ballou. Doctor Zhivago. The Sound of Music. The Fantastic Voyage. A Man for All Seasons. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Barefoot in the Park. Bonnie and Clyde. Cool Hand Luke. The Graduate.

1950-1959  
Who's Coming to Dinner. Apocalypse Now. Breaking Away. Kramer Versus Kramer. Manhattan.

1960-1969  
Atlantic City. The Empire Strikes Back. Melvin and Howard. Ordinary People. Raging Bull. Return of the Secaucus Seven. Chariots of Fire. On Golden Pond. Raiders of the Lost Ark. Reds. Blade Runner. ET The Extra Terrestrial. Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Gandhi. Missing. Sophie's Choice. Tootsie. The Big Chill. Local Hero. El Norte. Return of the Jedi. The Right Stuff. Risky Business. Terms of Endearment. Amadeus. Beverly Hills Cop. Ghostbusters. The Killing Fields. Stranger Than Paradise. Back to the Future. Brazil. The Color Purple. Out of Africa. Witness. Blue Velvet. Children of a Lesser God. Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Hannah and Her Sisters. Platoon. Broadcast News. The Last Emperor. Lethal Weapon. Moonstruck. The Untouchables. Big. Dangerous Liaisons. Die Hard. The Last Temptation of Christ. Rain Man. Batman. Born on the Fourth of July. Dead Poets Society. Do the Right Thing. Driving Miss Daisy. Field of Dreams. Glory. Sex, Lies and Videotape.

1990-1994  
Dances with Wolves. Goodfellas. Pretty Woman. Beauty and the Beast. Rambling Rose. The Silence of the Lambs. Terminator 2: Judgement Day. Thelma and Louise. The Player. Unforgiven. The Fugitive. The Joy Luck Club. Jurassic Park. Schindler's List. Sleepless in Seattle. Forrest Gump. The Lion King. Pulp Fiction. The Shawshank Redemption. Apollo 13. Babe. Braveheart. Casino. Leaving Las Vegas. Sense and Sensibility. Toy Story. The English Patient. Fargo. Jerry Maguire.

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# Once a hacker, always a hacker

The boy who broke into Nasa files is unrepentant, says Stephen Farrell

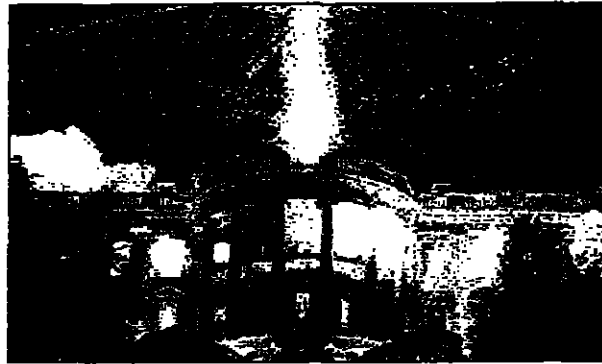
**PONY-TAILED** Mathew Bevan, an *X-Files* addict obsessed with UFOs, lived a twin existence and saw himself as the Nick Leeson of the hacking world.

An Admiral Insurance computer operator by day, at night he sat beneath posters of his fictional FBI heroes, Mulder and Scully, hacking around the world as real-life American investigators on his electronic trail suspected him of being one of the most sophisticated and dangerous hackers they had ever encountered.

In an interview with *The Times* Bevan admitted gaining access to computers belonging to the US Air Force, Nasa and the defence contractors Lockheed, but adamantly denied ever altering data.

He insists his motive was curiosity, not personal gain. "I was after information about UFOs. I just wanted to find evidence of all the conspiracy theories — alien abductions, the 1950s Roswell landings and Nasa faking the moon landings — and where better to look than their computer files?" he said.

"The US Air Force posts details of its personnel and network addresses on the



Aliens destroy the White House in *Independence Day*. The movie showed an alien spacecraft held in Area 51

Internet so anything you want you can get if you know how. It was a challenge."

Working under the nickname Kuji — the name of his cat and a martial arts death blow — he and the 16-year-old north London schoolboy Richard Pryce, who signed himself Datastream Cowboy, allegedly caused untold damage in March 1994.

Sources close to the American investigation, however, cast doubts on his claim to have been solely motivated by interest in aliens. "This was treated as serious incident. There might have been a matter of seeing what they

could find and then working out what they could do with it."

Bevan was 12 when he got his first computer, a Sinclair ZX81, for Christmas from his parents Elaine, a nurse, and Thomas, a detective sergeant with the South Wales Fraud Squad who had no idea how the gift would alter his son's life.

Despite spending up to 36 hours at a time on the keyboard — to the irritation of his parents — the family telephone bills never exceeded £60 because he mastered the technique of "blue-boxing", gaining free calls by sending

electronic pulses down the line to trick BT software into thinking a call was over. He had also installed a device to clear the line of tell-tale static whenever his mother picked up the extension while he was at work on the £700 Omega 500 and 1200 models with which he did most of his damage.

His Holy Grail was to prove the conspiracy theory that alien spacecraft are stored in conditions of strict secrecy at Area 51 of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio — as suggested in the science fiction film *Independence Day*. Although he claims to have seen convincing evidence of their presence, no evidence is forthcoming.

He attacked military sites with "sniffer" and "password cracker" programs to gain entry to state-of-the-art computers. Once in they sought out the systems administrators' log-ons, copied them and became invisible to others on the network.

Their traces were covered by hitting their targets from many different countries and through a false trail of up to half a dozen other computers. Bevan still believes investigators would never have caught



Bevan: "It is all about control. I'm breaking into the biggest computers in the world from my little room"

him if Pryce had not revealed his own identity to an informant, and held Bevan's telephone number on one of his files seized by police. "I would never have been found. Their security people had no idea."

His inmost claims are partially supported by a detailed US Air Force Office of Special Investigations dossier presented by the OSI's former computer crime unit head, Jim Christy, to a Senate committee, last year.

He admitted that both had "penetrated and compromised" Rome Laboratories, the US Air Force's premier command and control research facility at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York.

Connecting to commercial Internet providers in Seattle and New York, they accessed other sensitive targets including Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, Wright Patterson and an attempt on Nato's Brussels

headquarters. The OSI concluded: "From conduct observed through the investigators' monitoring, Kuji was a far more sophisticated hacker than the 16-year-old Datastream. He would only stay on a telephone line a short time, not long enough to be traced successfully."

Pryce was arrested at his parents home in Colindale, north London in May 1994 and Bevan in June last year. All his equipment was seized,

leading, he admits, to withdrawal symptoms. "It is all about control, really. I'm in my little room with my little computer breaking into the biggest computers in the world and suddenly I have more control over this machine than them. That is where the buzz comes from. Anyone who says they are a reformed hacker is talking rubbish. If you are a hacker, you are always a hacker. It's a state of mind."

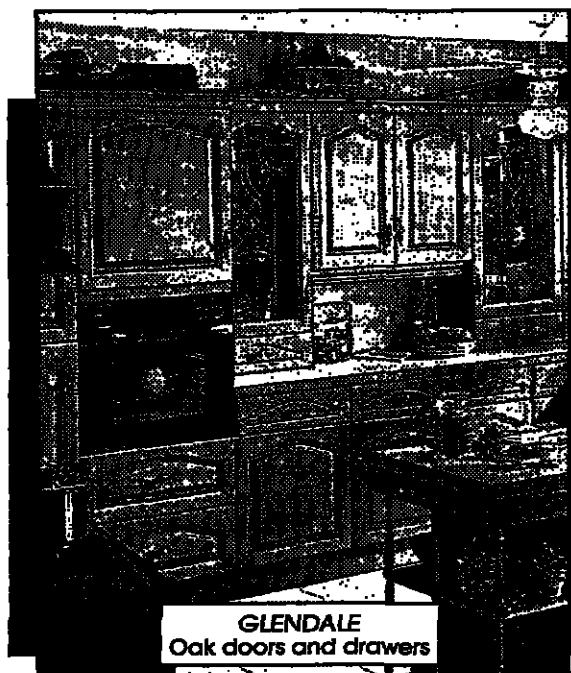
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## Colonel attacks Army over son's tank death

BY PETER FOSTER

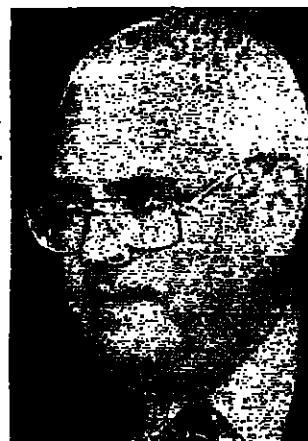
A SENIOR army officer whose son was killed in a military training accident had asked him to leave the Army just weeks earlier because his unit had descended into a "leaderless rabble", an inquest was told yesterday.

Corporal Nicholas Guignard, 23, a technician with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers (REME), was crushed to death as he repaired the main gun on a Chieftain battle tank while on exercise on Salisbury Plain.

The soldier, working with the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, was crushed under the breach of the gun as he connected a faulty power supply unit to the mains while sitting inside the tank. Cross-wiring in the unit caused the barrel to flail up and down violently.

After the accident, the Army's Board of Enquiry made ten safety recommendations, including annual safety refresher courses and a new system of labelling parts as they went for repair.

Recording a verdict of misadventure, David Masters, the Wiltshire Coroner, recommended an overhaul of the system for repairing vehicles. "I want to put an emphasis on the urgency of implementing



Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Guignard said the unit in which his son Nicholas served seemed a rabble

the recommendations of the Board of Enquiry," he said. "This enquiry has manifestly pointed up defects in the systems of repairing line replacement equipment."

Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Guignard, who retired in October after 25 years' service with REME, told the inquest at Salisbury Guildhall: "Nicholas told me he wasn't using the proper manuals and was making do with précis, which was anathema to me as a professional engineer. When I asked what his supervisor said about this, he told me he was training his supervisor in

tanks because his normal supervisor was elsewhere. The more questions I asked the more I became concerned that there was no level of effective management beyond his sergeant. I thought they had become a leaderless rabble."

Once his son had told him he had nearly died when a tank came dangerously close to tipping over and crushing him. Another time he had nearly been crushed by a tank while in his sleeping bag.

The Ministry of Defence said that it would take full consideration of the coroner's recommendations.

## Lack of student nurses 'poses threat to NHS'

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE National Health Service could be facing a serious shortage of nurses because of the fall in applications from young women to enter the profession. There are now more training places on offer than students applying to fill them, and the dropout rate is growing, with one in four failing to finish the three-year course.

Figures from the English National Board, which oversees the profession, show that there were 15,362 successful applications for the 16,126 training places last year. Previously, the number eligible for training outweighed the number of student places.

Even numbers inquiring about the profession are falling fast. Two years ago, 33,000 application packs were sent to young people asking about a career in nursing. Last year, 25,000 requested information.

The low number of applicants and the high dropout rate mean that the number of nurses aged under 25 has fallen: there are now more nurses on the register over retirement age than there are nurses under-25. According to the Royal College of Nursing, some 9,000 nurses are expected to qualify next year, compared with 37,000 15 years ago.

Although the number of registered nurses has risen slightly in recent years this is

because so many are being employed who are trained elsewhere. The number of British trained nurses continues to fall. There are 600,000 nurses on the register, but of these up to 85,000 are not working in nursing.

As the number of female nurses falls, the proportion of male nurses is rising. They now represent almost 10 per cent of those on the register, and are no longer predominantly working in mental health; a growing proportion are in children's wards.

"Everyone should be worried by the fall in the numbers training," a spokesman for the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting said. "There has never been a period when there were so many competing jobs available for the sort of person who would make a good nurse."

Older, qualified people were increasingly returning to work after having a child, she said, "but there are not enough young people being trained now to ensure we have an adequate number of nurses in the future."

Pippa Gough, assistant director of nursing policy at the RCN, said: "This is a grave situation and it is getting worse. We're heading for the worst shortages since the start of the NHS."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

### THE STUD



When Seymour Hersh began investigating President John Kennedy's notorious sex life, he found a level of debauchery that far exceeded expectations. The witnesses, however, were unassailable: a former mistress and his Secret Service bodyguards

News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



# Passengers are reminded that smoking is obligatory

**Non-smoker Damian Whitworth found his head in the clouds when he joined tobacco enthusiasts on a special flight to Amsterdam**

THE problem: the European pro-smoking lobby is holding its biannual conference in Amsterdam this weekend, but there are no flights from London to The Netherlands on which delegates can smoke. The solution: they hired their own plane and smoked for Britain.

There were two non-smokers on the flight. The first, bizarrely, was the press officer for Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest) who had chartered the plane. The second was me.

Even the most furious smokers at *The Times* said

they were relieved they were not going on this trip. Then, as we gathered in London yesterday, the director of Forest, Marjorie Nicholson, said cheerfully that I was "very brave" and presented me with a face mask before we set off. Just how much smoke could these people produce?

Stepping aboard the coach to Biggin Hill from where our flight departed I entered a fug immediately reminiscent of the short time I once spent in a small room with Lord Harris of High Cross and his pipe. As I waded through to a seat, the smoke cleared briefly and there was Lord Harris, in



In drag: members of Forest donned 1930s gear

trademark deerstalker, chugging on his pipe.

At Biggin Hill it was noticeable that most of the women had fox furs draped around their shoulders and the men were wearing 1930s suits and trilbies. The idea was to hark back to a time of greater freedom. "The 1930s was a

time when society wasn't wrapped up in using the organs of the state to dictate to people how they should live their lives," explained Martin Ball, the non-smoking press officer.

In keeping with this theme the aircraft was also from that age. A 1940s DC-3 was waiting

on the runway. A fire engine was parked alongside.

On board fingers tapped nervously and ears strained for the magic words "you are now free to smoke". We took off noisily, the announcement was made and two dozen lighters clicked on as one.

At 10,000 feet it was freezing and we entered the clouds, both outside and inside the plane.

Large drinks were poured and the delegates luxuriated in their plumes of smoke. The flight was an hour and 40 minutes. The journey takes about an hour on a modern plane. It seems hard to believe that it is not possible to last that long without a cigarette. "Some people can't," said Ms Nicholson.

"I'm a fugitive from persecution," declared Lord Harris, who is chairman of Forest. "Tolerance on both sides is what is wanted. There is no need for there to be a war."

## DOCTORS CALL FOR BAN

The credibility of the Government's commitment to tackle the health menace of tobacco has been undermined by the debate over sport sponsorship, doctors' leaders said yesterday (Ian Murray writes). Launching an alliance of 80 national organisations that want a comprehensive Europe-wide ban on all forms of tobacco advertising, Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said the de-

bate over the past few weeks on the tobacco sponsorship of sport "has undermined the credibility of the Government's commitment to tackling the tobacco menace and improving public health". A European Directive banning tobacco advertising in sport is to be discussed at the Health Council in Brussels on December 4. Leaders of the alliance are to meet Mr Blair next week.

daughter offered to treat them to a foreign holiday to celebrate their golden wedding, they chose to join the Forest expedition.

"We went to look at holidays but the travel agent said there was no smoking on the flights. Then my daughter heard about this," Maisie said. "So we joined Forest and we came."

George, a former tree surgeon from Hertford, smokes between 40 and 50 cigarettes a day, while Maisie has ten to 25. Both started smoking when they were 14.

I was gasping when we touched down, but for clean air not a cigarette. Forest kindly invited me to stay and fly back with them on Monday but I explained that I had to return earlier and would have to forgo the cosy chimney-interior atmosphere of their DC-3.

Bernard Levin  
Weekend, page 7

# Lawyer's career in ruins after lie to save lover

By TIM JONES

THE career of a Crown Prosecution Service solicitor is in ruins after an Old Bailey jury yesterday found her guilty of perverting the course of justice.

Penelope Schofield, 35, wept as the jury decided she had piled lie upon lie to protect her policeman lover from a drink-driving charge. Her own defence counsel said her behaviour had been "despicable and indefensible".

Schofield, of Hambledon, Hampshire, now faces being struck off after a disciplinary hearing of the Law Society. She also faces a CPS hearing.

She will be sentenced next month after social inquiry reports when she will again stand in the dock with her one-time boyfriend, Nigel Phillips, a former detective constable, who had pleaded guilty to drink-driving at an earlier hearing. The judge, Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, asked for the reports to cover the possibility of community service "without in any way suggesting that will be the outcome".

The woman who helped put Schofield in the Old Bailey dock is Detective Constable Annie Hutchinson. She was dating Mr Phillips, 31, before he set up home with the lawyer. She came forward with new evidence to prove Schofield was a liar, giving



Schofield: told court she had lost everything

police a vital lead in their investigation.

Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, told the court: "It may be implied that in some way she was acting out a vendetta against this woman. She had lost her man and she was going to take her revenge by making her suffer."

She had come forward to say that Schofield had taken the taxi alone that night. "She came forward with evidence to assist the police that the couple had lied," But Mr Campbell said, the woman police detective had been acting professionally. Schofield said in a statement read out to the court: "Now I have lost everything—my career, my job with the

Crown Prosecution Service and it is likely that I will be struck off by the Law Society. I have worked extremely hard to get those qualifications and my whole life has revolved around the legal profession.

"I am ashamed of what I have done and of the shame it has brought on my family. I did it for Nigel out of stupidity, without thinking of the consequences."

The court was told that Schofield began her deceit after she had accompanied Phillips to a CID dinner dance at the De Vere Harbour Hotel in Southampton last December. As the band played, she thought Phillips was becoming over-familiar with a policewoman; they quarrelled and she left.

Phillips carried on drinking before deciding to drive the 13 miles to the home they shared together. But after four miles—and just a few yards from Bitterne Police Station where he was based—he hit a kerb and punctured one of his tyres.

He drove the car into the station car park and entered the building where colleagues saw he was drunk and he was arrested, breathalysed and found to be three times over the drink-drive limit. In the station, he made several calls to Schofield and persuaded her to agree she had been driving up to the time of the "accident".



WPC Michelle Wilkinson shows off £250,000 worth of jewellery at the Bumblebee roadshow in the Queen's Stand at Epsom racecourse

# Burglary victims' £5m flutter pays off

By PAUL WHITTAKER

IT MAY have seemed like an odd-on loser to most, but a small number of burglary victims who attended yesterday's 20th police stolen property roadshow at Epsom Racecourse came away winners. However, the 37 lucky punters who had identified

their stolen valuables by the afternoon may have to wait months to collect, depending on whether they need to be used as evidence in court.

With statistics showing a home in Britain is burgled every two minutes, it was little surprise that record crowds gathered for the biggest yet Operation Bumblebee roadshow.

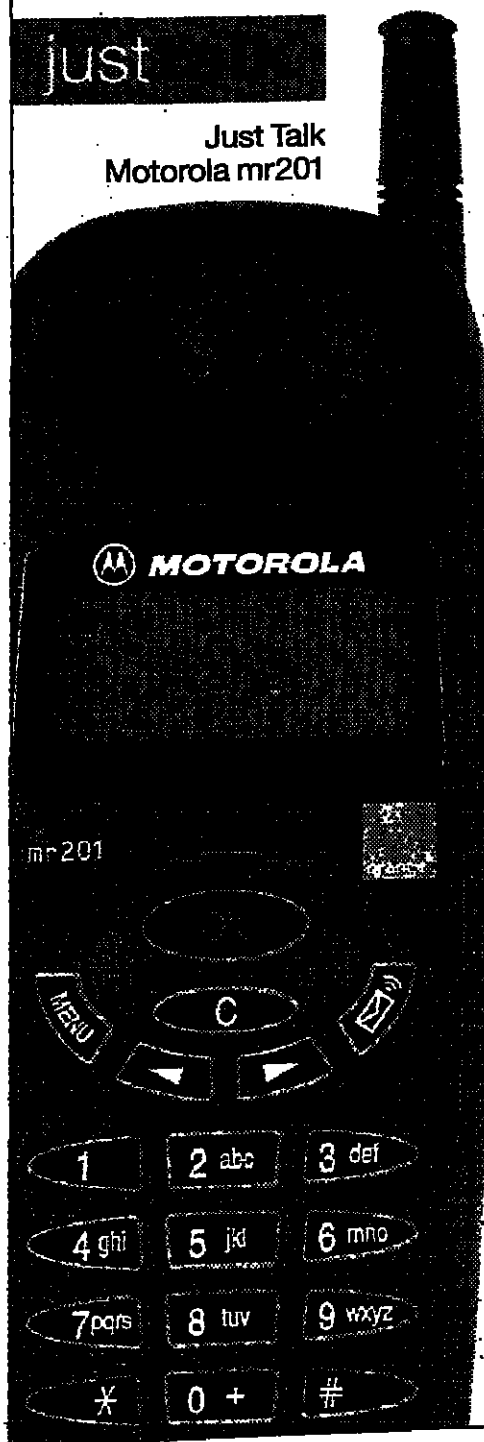
More than 600 people poured into the Queen's Stand in the first two hours to view the collection, worth more than £5 million.

Stolen goods included a £10,000 horse-drawn carriage, a £25,000 17th-century painting, a jet ski and a 1987 Zeebrugge ferry disaster commemorative medal. One of the day's

winners, May Clark, a district nurse from Southend, Essex, found two heirlooms left to her by her mother which were stolen in 1993.

Mrs Clark, 50, who identified a gold brooch and a heart-shaped locket, said: "It was a real gamble coming here. I was not very hopeful I would ever see these items again."

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# Prisoners in a 'human zoo'

Tourists are contributing to Thai slavery, writes Andrew Drummond



Abducted Padaung, left, are held captive as others in a refugee camp, right, await news of them



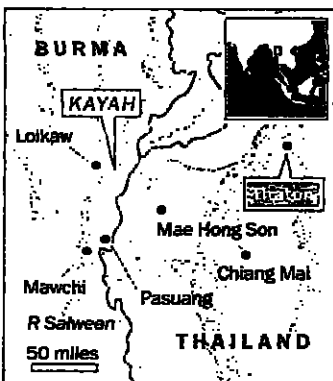
WOMEN from a remote Burmese hill tribe who are renowned for their long necks are being used as exhibits in a human zoo in Thailand, where they sought refuge after fleeing from Burma's military junta. Three of the villagers, who have been found by *The Times*, are alleged to have died after being deprived of medical attention.

The women, from Kayah state in Burma, went missing a year ago, having been kidnapped by Thai businessmen and placed under armed guard on land controlled by the Thai Army just over the border from Burma near the village of Thaton, on the River Kok.

Tourists, who have been paying £4 a head to view the women, are told by guides that the families are living free under the care of the Thai military, which has given them the land to live on.

But their families say that they have been sold into slavery. They are paid £3 a month per family by a Thai businessman to look their best for tourists. Their captors sell them make-up, which they insist the women wear, and aspirin derivatives if they fall ill.

The discovery of the camp comes as Thailand is promoting long-necked women as a tourist attraction for "Amazing Thailand Year", an international publicity campaign. The women told *The Times* they had been beaten regularly and their husbands had been forced to work for the Thai Army, digging



trenches on the Burma border. Civilian guards near the camp had immediate access to M16 weapons and hand-held mortars.

The captives are members of the Padaung hill tribe, an offshoot of the Karen, an ethnic minority who fought with the British Chindits against the Japanese in the Second World War. Since then, they have been fighting the Burmese military dictatorship for their own state.

The group of Padaung, originally 34 in strength, fled Burma in August last year, leaving their Kayah state village of Panpet in Deemawso township. For ten days, friendly units of the rebel Karen army monitored the group as it followed a well-worn route to the Karen refugee camp of Baan Na Soi. There, other long-necked hill-tribe relatives are being looked after by the Karen Refugee Com-

mittee in the relative safety of another tourist village that they help to administer themselves. It has since been learnt, however, that, only a few miles short of their destination, the fleeing group was put into minibuses with tinted windows and driven out of the area. Karen intelligence sources discovered that the guide — once a Mae Hong Song tourist guide — had sold them, and absconded with the proceeds.

"We sent our troops after him but they got the news six hours too late," said Aung Myat, the deputy chairman of the Karen Refugee Committee in Mae Hong Son.

Three months ago, Karen refugee officials were given the first evidence of the plight of their missing people. They received a tape from a tourist who had visited Paikongchai and been asked to deliver it to the refugee centre.

The tape began with the sound of Padaung women singing a dirge, but then cut to the voice of a woman pleading for help. "Please come now. Things cannot be any worse," she said. "We would rather die than live here." For 30 minutes a succession of men and women poured out their complaints. "We are beaten when they see us writing or trying to talk to tourists secret-

ly," a voice said. Another complained: "They won't let us leave. They guard us with guns." One said: "We don't want to see these people visiting and smiling and laughing at us. We want to be with our own people."

Yet another said: "I feel so sorry when foreigners come and ask about our children's schooling. They won't let us take our children to school. We cannot eat the food they give us. They shout and scream if we do not make the foreigners happy."

Families in the Baan Na Soi camp recognised the voices of their relatives. Zaw Thet, the only Padaung member on the refugee committee and a former rebel officer, travelled north to investi-



An Israeli tourist offers sweets to a Padaung girl, unaware that she is being held captive in the northern Thailand "human zoo"

gate. "When I got there, there were 40 armed men at the gates. They had M16s and machineguns. They pointed their guns at me and refused me entrance," he said.

Despite several attempts by the Karen Refugee Committee to have the families released, the only action taken by the authorities in Chiang Mai province was to arrest the Padaung women and charge them with working illegally. They were then immediately sent back to work in the camp after the businessman, Thana Nakluang, paid their bail. He was also charged with using illegal labour, but the maximum fine he faces is less than the takings from a bus of tourists.

After an appeal from within Kayah state, I visited the camp as a

tourist, accompanied by Zaw Thet and an official appointed to investigate child exploitation. After paying the entrance fee, I entered the camp with the Thai official and was able discreetly to deliver a message in Burmese and play a tape of Zaw Thet talking to his people in Padaung. The camp village emptied as the Padaung families, at first incredulous, rushed to the gates apparently believing they were to be freed.

Newly arrived tourists looked into the huts, bemused to find them empty. At the gates the Padaung rushed to touch Zaw Thet. The guards were compelled to let him in so the Padaung would at least return to the tourist viewing area.

The Padaung confirmed the allegations they had made on the tape. A camp manager in dark glasses nicknamed *Muu* — Thai for pig — denied the brutality. "Don't believe they are not happy here and that

we do not pay them. They make lots of money. Look in their huts. We treat them very well," he shouted. "Just ask them." We did. All said they wanted to leave immediately.

The Karen committee and Thai officials had to leave the camp with the arrival of Tourist Police friendly to the owner, and after the scarcely veiled threat of having their pictures taken by Nakluang's camp guards.

Zaw Thet said: "Only public opinion and good Thai citizens can help our people now. The Padaung are not animals, but proud people with fierce traditions. This is a mockery of them."

Andrew Drummond has spent a considerable time on the Thai-Burma border reporting on the ethnic rebels' fight for survival. He has reported on the Karens' 50-year war for BBC's *Everyman*, and on Khun Sa, the opium warlord, for the ITV network.

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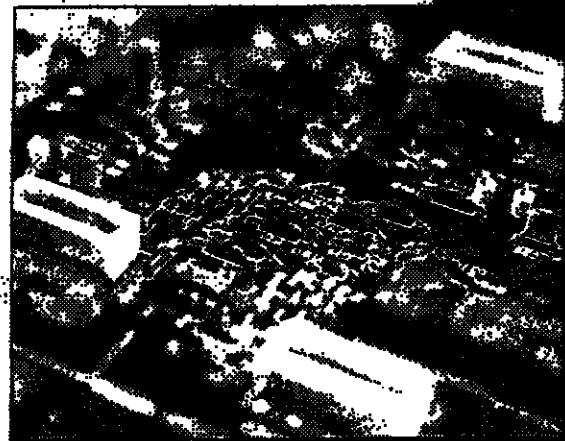
In a location with excellent communications linking U.K. and European markets, acclaimed educational establishments (which include the renowned research facilities of the University of Essex), good health, housing and recreational facilities. These factors, and more, combine to create a unique quality of life which does not translate easily into words, but is appreciated every day by those who live and work in Colchester.

## Experience

Of course the perfect candidate must be able to offer the right combination of character, qualifications and experience. Colchester Council's Economic Development Unit is experienced in providing support and assistance to inward investors such as advice on development opportunities, the outstanding stock of commercial and industrial properties available and organising and co-ordinating employment initiatives.

## References

If you now want to know more about locating in Colchester, why not talk to some of the diverse business community who are already here - companies like Guardian Direct, GEC Parnman, Lay and Wheeler or Woods of Colchester - or better still call us in for an interview.



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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN

# Bouquets and smiles: at ease among her people



The Queen at the Royal Gala at the Festival Hall on Wednesday, left, and meeting Chelsea Pensioners on her relaxed and informal walkabout with the Prime Minister on the way to the Banqueting House luncheon on Thursday



The royal walkabout on Thursday dispensed with the usual stock banalities

IF THERE was a defining moment of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding anniversary celebrations on Thursday, it came shortly before noon.

Fresh from the solemnities of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, the royal couple emerged from the Great West Door under a leaden November sky and, as planned, headed for the crowd corralled behind crush barriers across the street. It held every promise of a stock royal walkabout, with its standard banalities of "Have you come far?" and "Have you been waiting long?"

Suddenly, someone in the crowd handed the Queen a balloon. It was one of those helium-filled novelties that stays aloft at the end of its

The Hanoverian scowl has disappeared in what appears to be an overnight change of royal style.

Alan Hamilton reports on a rejuvenated monarch

string. The Queen is well used to accepting posies and bouquets from the multitude, which she accepts graciously and immediately passes to the nearest courtier or policewoman, with a polite smile to the donor. But the balloon was different: the Queen hung on to it for the best part of a minute, and for that brief moment she looked more relaxed, more at ease with herself and her world, than she has done for years.

Was this the same scowly, jowly Hanoverian we used to know, the distant lady with the strangled vowels — which she would have called "viles" — that was our hereditary head of state? Was this the same Head of the Commonwealth who used to read duty speeches with head fixed downwards on text, who at the Banqueting House on Thursday looked us — or at the least television camera — square in the eye and told us that she was open to change?

It is indeed the same head of state whose job has been to symbolise the United Kingdom for 45 years, whose first Prime Minister was Winston Churchill and who is now on her tenth. But whatever has happened to the royal body language? Suddenly it speaks to us. Has there been an overnight change of royal style, or are we all so captivated by the new Labour notion

of People's Britain that we see what we want to see? Or has the monarch been got at by the Blair image-massagers?

Probably none of those. A golden wedding anniversary is a cause of celebration for anyone who has endured the same partner for half a century, and who still draws strength, comfort and plea-

Guildhall on Wednesday when her husband paid an elegant tribute to her tolerance. (He, on the other hand, clearly enjoyed her return compliment to him the following day, alluding to the fact that he was a crusty old stick, but no less a rock for that). But at all other times during the week's festivities, we have watched a happy monarch.

This is not entirely new: it is simply that we do not always notice it. What we do vaguely appreciate, however, is that Elizabeth II improves with age. The improvement began when she stopped colouring her hair and bowed to the inevitable of distinguished silver-grey. The improvement was instant, and dramatic.

Being head of state and Head of the Commonwealth requires, when abroad, a certain dignified bearing. But the Queen had never looked so spontaneously happy on any overseas tour within living memory as when she was welcomed by Nelson Mandela to the new post-apartheid South Africa in 1994.

The reasons were threefold. She had a huge personal admiration for Mandela; she is delighted for any country to be readmitted to her beloved Commonwealth; and she recalled her last visit to South Africa with her father in 1947, shortly before her wedding, when she made a memorable

broadcast from Cape Town on her 21st birthday pledging herself to a life of service.

That she has not smiled so much recently is hardly surprising: for serpents and brimstone have rained upon her land in abundance. The divorces of three of her children, the burning of her favourite home and the taxpayer's clear unwillingness to foot the bill, would have been enough by themselves. But then, at the time of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, she was criticised for staying at Balmoral, where she was doing her best to comfort her bereaved grandsons.

When she did come back to London, she looked us in the eye in a live broadcast that was, in the circumstances, something of a *tour de force*. The woodenness of her Christmas broadcasts had gone. She gazed straight at the camera (autocues are a wonderful invention, but they do need a little practice) and told us

Continued on page 9

She remains the best figurehead we have got, or are likely to have in her lifetime

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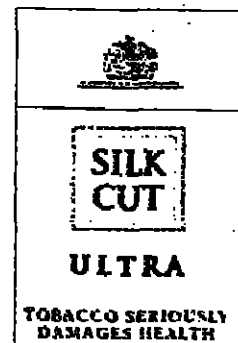
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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN



The Duke of Edinburgh showing no signs of crustiness as he meets the people on Thursday's walkabout from Downing Street to the Banqueting House luncheon

Continued from page 8  
directly, without any apparent benefit of spin-doctors, that she grieved for Diana, but that she was a grandmother whose first duty was to her family.

The death of the Princess unleashed a weird and frightening tide of emotion in the country. What it did not unleash was a wave of republicanism: the country, it is said, wanted its Queen. Somewhere, in the depths of the nation's atavistic soul, the

monarchy can still satisfy a need. We perceived a new, rejuvenated Queen, 71 years old and blooming, at her golden wedding.

We have heard tabloid hyperbole about charm offensives, new brooms, need to change to survive, and other doubtful invention. The Queen has been fine-tuning the monarchy for years, and although the pace of change may be too slow for some, no one could accuse the institution of being set in aspic. She

pays income tax now. All her relatives are off the Civil List, and the taxpayer now funds only herself, her husband and her mother (to whom we would surely not begrudge a decent pension).

She funded three quarters of the Windsor fire restoration by charging *hot-polloi* to tramp round her homes. And her household is now run, not by titled courtiers, but by as hard-headed a bunch of City money men as you will find anywhere. She has reluctantly

parted with her boat, and may soon lose her train. She is becoming a slimmed-down monarch, prey to the modern climate of ruthless business efficiency. Anyone who says the Royal Family is a profligate waste of money has not read the balance sheet lately.

But the point about the Queen is that there might be minor changes of style, but her core values do not change. She is under siege from Brussels, which wishes to dilute British sovereignty, and from the

northern half of her kingdom, which if it ever moved to full independence would not automatically choose her or her successor as Heidi O'State.

For the nation state of the United Kingdom as at present constituted, however, she remains the best figurehead we have got, or are likely to have in her lifetime. Her 10th Prime Minister, in his speech at the Banqueting House on Thursday, acknowledged that there were few shrewder cookies about, and that her advice

was always worth listening to. Queen Elizabeth has a husband who adores her, a Prime Minister who is an out-and-out monarchist (although she should be careful that he does not use her for his own political ends), and a public who, now that the fog of recent mass emotion is clearing, still value their monarch. That seems more than enough to smile about.

Leading article and Letters, page 23



The Queen, radiant in red, at the Guildhall lunch



All smiles with her "Happy Anniversary" balloon

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Chris Hession with a sample of Irish seaweed: "This has got everything that people want — it is organic, low in fat, high in vitamins and studies show that it helps longevity"

## Seaweed farm caters for rising tide of sushi

FARMERS in the West of Ireland may shortly abandon traditional sheep and cattle husbandry to grow seaweed for sushi bars in Tokyo and London. The first commercial seaweed farm in the British Isles will be set up next month off the Galway coast by farmers and scientists keen to capitalise on the surge in international demand for the slithery weed called "sea vegetables".

Ireland has 560 types of seaweed, of which only dulse has traditionally been eaten. The rest is left to rot or harvested for manure, food additives or soothing hot baths in Kerry and Donegal. Now scientists at the University of Galway, have found among the Irish weeds *Porphyra linearis* and *Alaria esculenta*, otherwise known as *nori* and *wakame*, the most popular seaweeds in sushi bars.

Chris Hession, manager of the



Irish Seaweed Industry Organisation, said that the potential for success in the \$4 billion (£2.3 billion) seaweed market was enormous. In 1994, Japan imported almost half the 223,000 tonnes of seaweed consumed and it is increasingly popular in Europe and the United States.

"This has got everything that people want: it is not an animal fat, it is organic, it is low in fat, high in vitamins and studies show that it helps longevity," said Mr Hession,

For centuries it has been the poor man's food and fertiliser in Ireland, but now it is being grown for an international market worth £2.3 billion, reports Audrey Magee

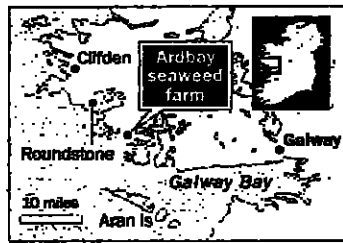
who is based at the university. "All we have to do now is get it right and produce a tasty Irish seaweed."

Production of *wakame*, used in a wide range of Japanese foods, including *miso* soup, starts in Galway next month. For the past three years, the UCG team, funded by the Irish Government and the European Union, have been perfecting the genetic make-up of *wakame*, *nori* and *dulse*. They are already producing *Asparagopsis*

*armata*, a seaweed used in cosmetics.

The seeds are planted in a bath of seawater, where they wrap around string as they grow. The young plants are transferred to the sea at Ardara, Connemara, and attached to ropes suspended near the surface of the sea, allowing maximum light without desiccation.

The Galway team hopes to produce two crops of *wakame* a year, eventually selling 50g of seaweed at £4 to £20. Next year it



will start farming *dulse*, *Palmaria palmata*, and *nori*, which is used to wrap the rolls of sushi. Most of the seaweed consumed in the world is farmed in China, Japan and other Asian countries. A company in Brittany grows the plant for cosmetic use.

Michael Ward will be the first farmer in Ireland to try growing *wakame*. He is already producing *Asparagopsis armata* for a French company making anti-burn cream. A computer programmer and part-

time farmer originally from Glasgow, he will shortly get young *wakame* plants from the university to plant in his lot in Ardara.

"The Japanese have 5,000 years experience growing this, so that puts them slightly ahead of us, but we are convinced that we can quickly learn and catch up," he said.

However, Hiromitsu Mochizuki, owner of the sushi bar in Harrods, who imports his *wakame* and *nori* from Japan, doubts that the Irish can match the Japanese standards. "Ten years ago I tasted seaweed from Scotland, but it was hard and chewy," he said. "The different seawater and plankton around Scotland and Ireland make the texture much harder. The flavour is more bitter."

"But I am very happy to try it when it is ready. Then we shall see."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## New DNA tests in Brittany killer hunt

Gene samples from men aged 35 to 60 are being taken from men in the Brittany village of Pleine Fougères by French police investigating the killing of Caroline Dickinson in July last year.

Caroline, 13, was raped and murdered in a hostel dormitory while on a school trip from Launceston Community College, Cornwall. Last month 169 male villagers aged 15 to 35 gave DNA samples, but all proved negative when compared with the killer's genetic fingerprint.

### Boys in court

Three boys of 10 and 11 appeared in court accused of the manslaughter of a woman when fire swept through bedsits above an off-licence. They were remanded on bail by Brent Youth Court, North London.

### £20,000 award

Lisa De Smet, 28, was awarded £19,800 by Hove County Court after her scalp was chemically burnt while she was having her hair bleached by a hairdresser in Brighton. She had to have five skin-grafts and is still scarred.

### Tory couple split

The Conservative MP Stephen Day and his wife, Frances, have separated after 15 years. Mr Day, MP for Chesham, blamed the pressure of parliamentary work and both said that nobody else was involved.

### Smoker's suicide

Raymond Bateman, 53, a heavy smoker, hanged himself because he thought he had lung cancer, but an inquest in Bristol was told that a post-mortem examination had found no trace of cancer in his body.

### Diana inquiry

The BBC has begun an inquiry into how a film about Diana, Princess of Wales was sold as a video of the *Teletubbies*. A shopper in Glasgow was twice sold the film inside a *Here Come The Teletubbies* cover.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New DNA tests in Brittany killer hunt

Gene samples from men aged 15 to 60 are being taken from men in the Brittany village of Ploeme. French police are investigating the killing of Caroline Dorey in July last year.

Boys in court

Three boys of 10 and 11 appeared in court accused of the manslaughter of a woman whose life was snuffed out by a fire through the back of her head. They were remanded to North London.

£20,000 award

Lord St. Leonards was awarded £20,000 in the House of Lords after her scalp was removed by a hairbrush while she was having her hair bleached in a hair salon in Brighton. She had to have five stitches and is still scarred.

Tory couple split

The Conservative MP Sir John Gummer and his wife, who have separated after 15 years, have agreed to divorce. Sir John is the MP for Chichester and the couple have two children.

Smoker's suicide

A 45-year-old man, who had smoked for 30 years, died of a heart attack after a long battle with cancer. He was the first of his family to die of cancer.

Liberal inquiry

The Liberal Party has launched an inquiry into the alleged involvement of its members in the arms trade. The inquiry is led by Sir John Gummer.

# Mandelson spins a tale of the century

A glossy brochure contains Labour's hard-sell on the £750m Millennium Dome, writes Nicholas Wood

IT PROMISES to be the most spectacular event anywhere in the world. You will travel on a theatrical journey, taking you from the past far into the future. Breathtaking sound and light effects will combine with the excitement of live performance for a spectacular and inspirational experience.

And if you think that sounds like the patter from a sales brochure, you are right. Amid mounting criticism of the information black hole at the centre of the £750 million Millennium Dome, Peter Mandelson, the minister in charge, has approved publication of the first official description of the "fun and fascination" awaiting the nation when the dome opens on New Year's Eve 1999.

At a cost of £40,000 for an initial print run of 50,000 copies, the brochure will be made available to the public on Thursday with the opening of the Dome visitor centre at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. It will be regularly updated as the project unfolds and the 12 designers and their business sponsors get down to detailed work on the nine "exhibition zones" inside the outer rim of the dome.

The eight-page brochure, masterminded by the Saatchi brothers, is strong on slick, futuristic images of Britain, but light on detail about the contents of the dome. In addition to the time-travel show in the 10,000-seater central arena to be produced by Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the



The cover of the new eight-page brochure

impresario who produced *Cats* and *Miss Saigon*, it promises the latest interactive technology to help visitors to the exhibition zones explore the world of 2000 and beyond.

"Discover who we are, what we are and where we will be going in the future," the brochure says.

It also reinforces Tony Blair's vision of Britain as a young country, with pictures of children, dancers, video screens and trendy young people dominating the text.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Mandelson made no apology for his grandiose ambitions for the dome, twice the size of Wembley Stadium, which the brochure suggests should be fit to stand comparison with such architectural wonders as the Pantheon and St Peter's Basilica in Rome and St Paul's Cathedral in London.

has to be a big statement. It has to take people's breath away. Otherwise, nobody would notice it. We want to be noticed. That's the whole point."

He also confirmed that the dome was a key part of the Prime Minister's big idea to "rebrand" Britain as the most dynamic, entrepreneurial and forward-looking place on Earth.

"The vision we have for Britain we want to be captured in the dome is of an ambitious, can-do, optimistic and meritocratic society. It is a Britain that is admired because we make the most innovative products, because we are at the cutting edge of architecture, of design, or marketing."

"All the most positive, forward-looking things about Britain we want to be highlighted. The eyes of the world will be on Britain because we are the home of time, because we are blazing a trail into the new millennium through this experience and this tremendous construction and engineering achievement, which is leading the way."

Like the Festival of Britain



How the £750 million dome in Greenwich will look. It should incorporate "all the most positive, forward-looking things about Britain"

ing offered to the world in the year 2000.

"We are taking a great event — the Millennium — and using that opportunity to rebrand ourselves as a forward-looking, confident country that is leading the way."

Like the Festival of Britain

in 1951 and the Great Exhibition of 1851, the dome will be an "expression of national renewal and pride."

In keeping with Mr Mandelson's vision, the brochure is thin on British history, with only Greenwich's place as the home of the prime

meridian being highlighted. But Mr Mandelson denied that he was abandoning the nation's roots. "It doesn't shun the past. It tells a story about time, about how we arrived at where we are."

"Passing into a new millennium is an occasion for people

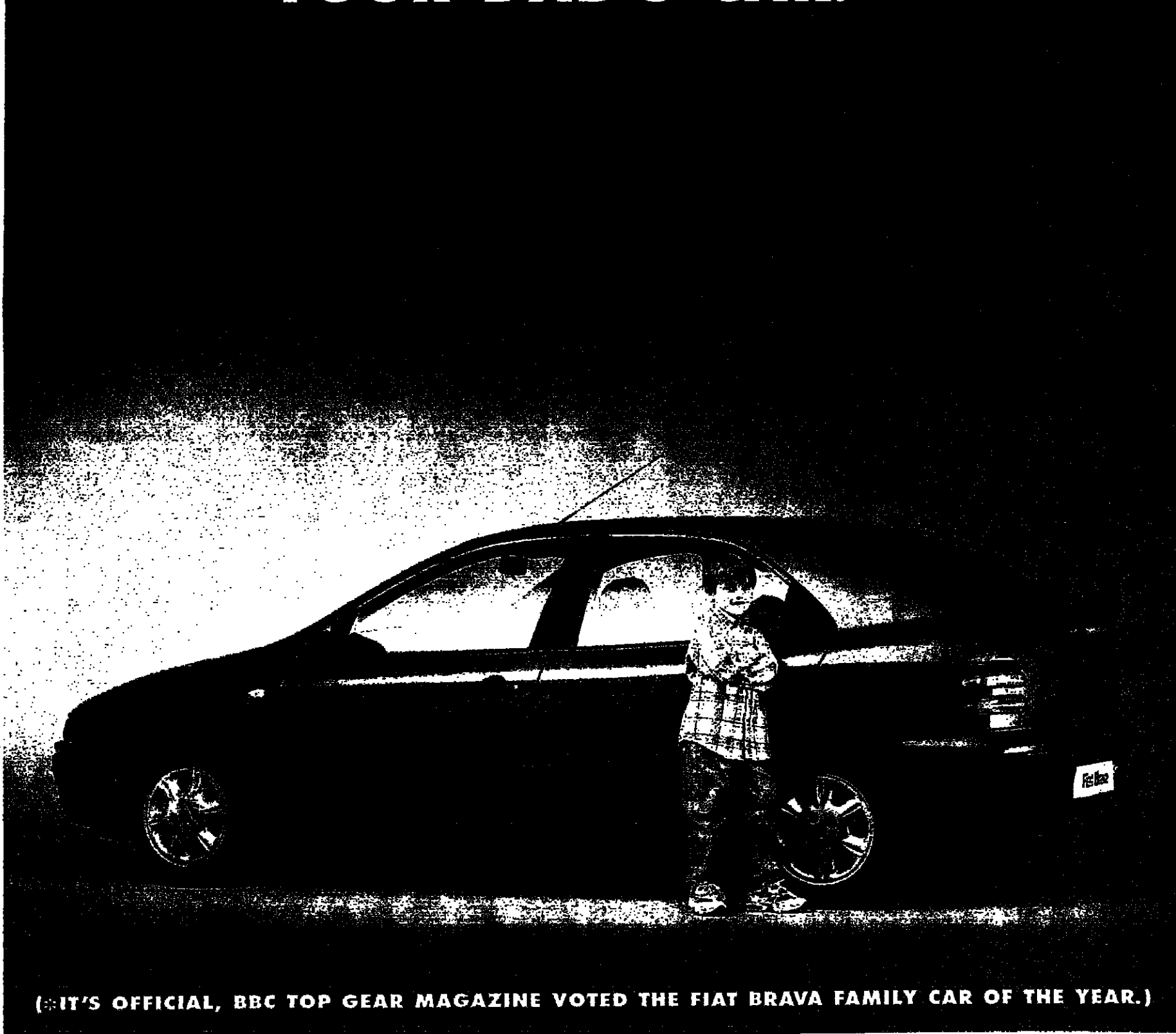
to think about the future. Rather than defining ourselves by our past, as Britain has tended to do, when it has spoken of warm beer, village greens, country cricket, we are defining ourselves by the future."

"We have got to persuade

people, not by changing a logo or adopting a new image, but by being a society that has genuinely revitalised itself."

That way will come new investment, new jobs, new visitors and — although he does not say it — another term of new Labour.

## "MY DAD'S CAR IS BETTER THAN YOUR DAD'S CAR."\*



## Best UK building is in ... Germany

By Marcus Binney, Architecture Correspondent

BRITAIN'S building of the year is in Germany. Faced with the fact that many of the most exciting buildings by British architects are now built overseas, the annual £20,000 Stirling Prize has been awarded to the new Music School in Stuttgart by Michael Wilford & partners.

The judges from the Royal Institute of British Architects acclaimed the design as an example of the now "neglected" British monumental tradition, from Sir Edwin Lutyens through Sir Basil Spence and Sir Denys Lasdun to Sir James Stirling.

The £40 million school was the last building on which Sir James was working before his death, with his partner and successor, Michael

Wilford. The school is part of Stuttgart's Cultural Mile and is next to Stirling and Wilford's Staatsgalerie, one of the most acclaimed buildings of the 1980s.

Many had expected the award to go to Chris Wilkinson, the fastest rising star in British architecture, or to the current enfant terrible, Will Alsop.

But there is an added frisson in the fact that the Stirling prize goes to a building by the architect it was named after.

The Music School has nine floors of teaching and practice rooms with a concert hall in the rotunda — a clear homage to the great Swedish classical architect Gunnar Asplund.

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**STOVES**  
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**VOUCHER PRICE** £339.99

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Multiplay - plays up to 3 CDs, 100 watts (RMS) per channel, DJ mix functions, 4 speakers included.  
Model MHCX90. Was £449.99, In-store Price £379.99, 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*  
**EXTRA VOUCHER** £40  
**VOUCHER PRICE** £339.99

**WHARFEDALE**  
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Model MHCX90. Was £449.99, In-store Price £379.99, 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*  
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**VOUCHER PRICE** £129.99

**ELECTROLUX**  
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Model 1720. In-store Price £229.99, 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*  
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**EXTRA VOUCHER** £100  
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**JVC**  
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**EXTRA VOUCHER** £100  
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**SONY**  
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Baldwin: political aims

## Actor seeks a new role

CONFIRMING that political life in America has sunk to a new nadir, the actor Alec Baldwin (known almost exclusively as the husband of the film star Kim Basinger) has revealed that he has gubernatorial ambitions.

In an interview with *New York* magazine this week, Baldwin, who has never quite managed to break into Hollywood's first division, gloomily said: "What's the job I'd want to have? I'd say Senate. Governor. I'd love to be Governor of New York. It would be great."

Overheated observers have wasted no time in calling Baldwin "the Democratic Ronald Reagan".

# Heroine of a rape saga

## TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S NEW YORK



HER demeanour is gentle, her features soft, her voice like the sound of a brittle flute. Adrienne Bak Ortiano is New York's latest, and quietest, heroine.

Eleven years ago, aged 16, she was raped in the front seat of a car by someone from her school who had offered to drive her home from a party. His name was Alex Kelly. He was then 19, the most glamorous boy in their affluent Connecticut town, and he threatened to "do it again and kill her" if she ever told anyone about the attack.

She stumbled home, battered and bleeding, and told her supportive parents about what had happened. The police were informed and Kelly, soon to be dubbed the "preppy rapist", fled the country to avoid trial, spending the next nine years on the run in Europe. But his victim, whose manslaughter masks a will of iron, swore that she would one day send her rapist to prison. And she did.

In July this year, after a harrowing trial in which she gave testimony, Adrienne, now Mrs Ortiano, captured New York's imagination by asking the judge to show Kelly no mercy.

In her victim-impact statement, a feature of the American sentencing process, she said, weeping openly in court: "I have been living in constant fear since I was 16. I may look OK, but inside I am not OK. I will never be OK."

That appearance in court, and her dogged pursuit of Kelly, have made Mrs Ortiano a Joan of Arc figure. Kelly had been leading a sybaritic life on the ski slopes of Switzerland when private investigators hired by Mrs Ortiano helped to trace him.

This week, announcing publicly that she would now devote her free time to help women to cope with and fight against rape, she said: "I am not ashamed because I was raped, and I don't think other women should be." She had recurring nightmares for years in which Kelly came back to kill her.

Mrs Ortiano will now undertake a speaking tour of local colleges, at which she will warn and educate young women about the dangers of failing to speak out against rape.

She says: "I still get nervous and my voice quivers. But when I do speak out, I get such a wonderful response, it gives me the feeling that I'm doing the right thing."

Of the post I receive here from Britain, the item that I look forward to perhaps the most is the *Oxford University Gazette*, an endearingly pedantic weekly publication. This week's issue contained, in the section listing doctoral dissertations to be examined, a reference to a thesis submitted by a theology student called T. Mawson of The Queen's College: "How could I know I had been resurrected?" Mawson will be examined on December 2. Let us pray for success.

The Brearley School has opted for the label "weak". The Nightingale-Bamford School, however, has plumped for NS (needs strengthening): the Calhoun School for NGA (not grade-appropriate); the Brooklyn Friends for NAG (needs additional growth); and the Trevor Day School for RT (requires teaching). There is, as yet, no talk of abolishing the "A" grade.

## Schools fail on exam truths

POLITICAL correctness has arrived with a vengeance at some of New York's crustiest private schools, which have all now abolished the use of the grade "F" — for fail — in their marking systems.

The old blunt way has been dismissed as "insufficiently nurturing" by teachers. Instead, they will use an assortment of amusing euphemisms in an attempt to make their dunces feel a little better.

MEET THE ONLY MAN WHO HAS EVER ANSWERED ALL JEREMY PAXMAN'S QUESTIONS.

George Sayer taught English at Malvern College from 1947 to 1974. Jeremy Paxman joined his class in 1968 and, in 1997, nominated George Sayer as his most influential teacher.

## Author champions parents' right to bring up children

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

AMERICAN society is undergoing a process of forced "parentectomy", in which schools, welfare officers, social workers and courts are treating parents like pariahs and "usurping their traditional child-rearing functions", a new book contends.

According to Dana Mack, author of *The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family*, an ideologically-driven cadre of "child-rearing professionals" has taken control of America's children, promoting the "dangerously erroneous idea that parents are bad for children".

Focusing mainly on school-teachers and "social work bureaucrats", Ms Mack, who might be described as a conservative feminist, argues that there is "a pronounced anti-family bent" in the institutions that are supposed to be helping parents to bring up their children.

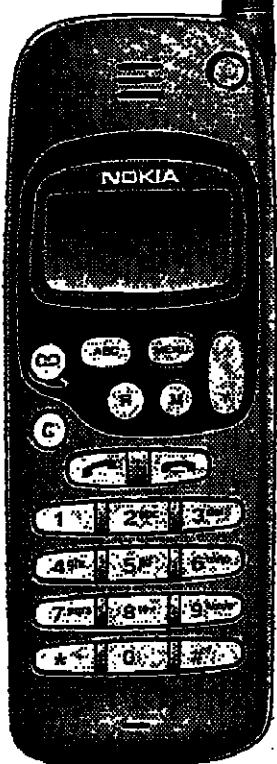
She excoriates the country's educational system for turning its back on the traditional skills of reading, writing and arithmetic and crowding the syllabus with courses on sex education, drug education, "death education", sexual abuse prevention and "life skills". One mathematics programme co-ordinator in Massachusetts is quoted as saying that traditional arithmetic is "unfair because it imposes a 'right' and a 'wrong' answer, thus foisting a 'White Western' ethos on children".

Ms Mack treats this as a metaphor for the way parental authority is being undermined in the classroom. Educators, she says, adhere dogmatically to their own ideology: this emphasises "choice" and "equality", and "excludes the moral dictates, rules and authority" that parents would prefer to inculcate. The classroom is the stage on which the following message is constantly displayed: "It is up to institutions, not parents, to rear children".

Among the stories she cites is a school field trip to a mortuary in 1990 in which ten-year-olds were "enjoined to touch the corpses". Many were traumatised for weeks. Some parents told Ms Mack things such as: "My kid already knows about condoms — at six." Parents also doubted the appropriateness of teaching 12-year-old boys about homosexuality.

□ *The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family*, by Dana Mack, Simon & Schuster, New York, \$25.

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# Rich rush to Patagonia in property boom

By GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE barren, windswept lowlands and lush green Andean foothills which make up Patagonia have become sought-after property for the rich and famous who are keen to buy huge landholdings in what remains one of the world's most remote and unspoilt regions.

The Patagonia property boom was sparked by the Italian brothers Luciano and Carlo Benetton, who became the biggest landowners in Argentina when, six years ago, they bought more than two million acres in a rugged flatland area of Patagonia that stretches across three southern provinces.

Patagonia refers to a huge area of land occupying the southern cone of South America, south of the Rio Colorado and north of the Straits of Magellan. Most of it belongs to Argentina and encompasses the provinces of Neuquén, Rio Negro, Chubut and Santa Cruz. On the other side of the Andes is a thin slice that belongs to Chile.

The Benettons were the first to move in on a flatland area around the Rio Chubut, shunned by most Argentines as too arid and remote. It is inhabited by small communities of sheep farmers whose forebears settled from Wales

along the rocky Atlantic coastline of Patagonia in the 1860s. The Benetton brothers are said to have invested more than \$100 million (£62 million) in the ranch, where they breed the 270,000 sheep whose wool is exported to jumper factories in Treviso, northern Italy.

The Hungarian-born billionaire, George Soros, owns 964,000 acres just south of the province of Buenos Aires, where he breeds cattle. His estancia — ranch — run by Argentine gauchos, produces grain and milk.

Mr Soros is said to have invested \$160 million in Ar-

gentina, including hotels in the lush side of Patagonia, on the foothills of the Andes around the ski resort of Bariloche.

The region's untouched beauty appears to have been what lured the American CNN media baron, Ted Turner. He and his wife, Jane Fonda, have had a wood and stone mansion built in the Andean foothills, amid the idyllic setting of a nature reserve where deer roam and trout-filled rivers abound.

The 12,000 acres that make up the Trafal estancia, in the province of Neuquén, are valued at \$6.5 million. President Clinton and his wife Hillary visited the Turner property, which is surrounded by evergreen trees and snow-capped mountains, during their visit to Argentina last month.

Sylvester Stallone's love of hunting led him to buy 30,000 acres in San Martín de los Andes near the resort of Bariloche, a forested area dotted with glacial lakes.

Low prices and the huge expanses of uninhabited, unspoilt, countryside have been the major attraction. An acre costs between \$40 and \$100. The embracing of free-market policies by Argentina and Chile have also made it easier for foreigners to buy



Patagonia's remote and unspoilt scenery, low prices and development potential are attracting foreign celebrities

land. Previous populist and military regimes had attempted to "modernise" and develop industry in the region, but failed because of its distance from major population centres. The Government of President Menem in Argentina has promoted Patagonia as an environmental protection zone.

In the past, Patagonia was also a stamping ground for

explorers, outlaws, missionaries and Welsh immigrants who sought isolation to preserve their language and culture. Its name derived from the word *pata*, Spanish slang for big foot, which was given by colonisers who on arrival saw large footprints left by a tall tribe of indigenous people in the region.

These nomads wore animal skins on their feet, giving them

a larger appearance. Bruce Chatwin's *In Patagonia* also describes some of the eccentric and violent characters who roamed the barren land, such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

A Peronist party congressman, Mario das Neves, who opposes Patagonia becoming a "park for celebrities", failed last year to prevent non-Argentine nationals from pur-

chasing more land. Roberto Fernández, the director of the rural landowners' society, said: "Rich foreigners are creating employment in these remote rural areas and bringing money into the country. We welcome this."

Chile has been less welcoming. Attempts by foreigners to create a nature reserve and conservation zone have failed, stalled by Congress.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### 2,000 held in foreign prisons

London: Almost 2,000 Britons are in prison abroad, with considerably more than half of them sentenced for drug offences, and last year British embassies were notified of the arrest of some 5,500 Britons (Michael Bihyon writes).

Spain, with 341, holds the largest number of Britons in jail, followed by France with 294, America (241) and Germany (101). The Foreign Office, issuing the figures in its annual report on the consular service, said that British officials made 8,157 visits last year to Britons in prison abroad.

### Luxor arrests

Asyut, Egypt: Egyptian police said they had arrested 45 Muslim militants and identified the first of the attackers who killed 62 people in the Luxor tourist massacre this week. They said Abdel Rahman, who had returned to Egypt recently from Sudan and Pakistan, had met accomplices in caves near Badari in the southern province of Asyut before the attack, in which six Britons died. (AFP)

### Village shooting

Vienna: A 36-year-old man ran amok with a pistol in the Austrian province of Salzburg, shooting dead six people, including a three-year-old girl. When police caught up with him, he turned the weapon on himself. The dead included the man's neighbours, and the deputy mayor of Mauterndorf, a village south of Salzburg, who tried to mediate in the dispute. (Reuters)

### Septuplets well

Des Moines: The largest of the McCaughey septuplets was breathing on his own and was removed from a ventilator yesterday. His six brothers and sisters were making "significant progress", a doctor said. The seven had been on ventilators since birth. The doctor said the others were following a more "typical time frame". (Reuters)

### Police cleared

Warsaw: A provincial court acquitted 22 former riot policemen of killing nine miners, the first fatalities of the 1981 communist martial law crackdown against Solidarity. About 100 people in the court in Katowice shouted of "Shame! Shame!" when Chief Justice Ewa Krulikowska said the evidence was inadequate to prove guilt. (AP)

### Hope for Abiola

Lagos: Moshood Abiola, the detained Nigerian presidential claimant, is on a list of 75 political prisoners who may be freed by military ruler General Sani Abacha, a local newspaper said. It quoted a member of a committee set up by the presidency to scrutinise detainees as saying the final decision would be taken by General Abacha. (Reuters)

### No Year's Eve

Jakarta: There will be no public New Year's Eve parties in the holiday island of Bali to avoid clashing with the start of Ramadan, Islam's holy month of fasting. Nearly 90 per cent of Indonesia's more than 200 million people are Muslims, although Bali is predominantly Hindu. Private celebrations, including those in hotels, will be allowed. (AP)

## Whites despair over Zimbabwe farm seizures

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

LEADERS of Zimbabwe's commercial farmers completed a series of despairing meetings yesterday to tell their 4,500 members, mostly whites, which farms are to be expropriated by President Mugabe.

Officials of the Commercial Farmers' Union officials have addressed anxious gatherings of farming families around the country this week, reading out from a list of nearly 1,800 farms drawn up by the Government for forced purchase. "There is heartbreak," said a senior official who asked not to be named. "People just sat there stunned. They don't know where tomorrow is any more."

In the most determined campaign against the country's small white community since independence in 1980, the ruling Zanu (PF) party is confiscating 12 million acres of white-owned land, 44 per cent of the total area under commercial cultivation.

Economists say the loss of the nation's most economically vital sector will create major disruption in a country already in political and economic crisis. They see Mr Mugabe as dominated by militant guerrilla veterans of the war against white minority rule in Rhodesia, who are demanding money and farms for helping to bring him to power.

The Government has no money with which to compensate farmers or for resettlement costs. Earlier this month Britain rejected an appeal by Zimbabwe for £150 million.

Peasant farmers in desperate need of land are no longer at the top of the list. Land will be distributed chiefly among former guerrillas. Despite promises of "transparent" consultations in the selection of farms, there has been no contact with the union.

The expropriation has already begun, with government officials this week delivering the first letters notifying owners of their impending loss. The list is being kept a secret until the Government gazettes all 1,772 farms. Farmers have been warned by Kumbirai Kangai, the Lands and Agriculture Minister, that they will lose all chance of negotiation if they talk to the press.

Those who attended the meetings said that the list was riddled with mistakes. It made no attempt to adhere to undertakings by the Government to apply a policy of "one man, one farm" and to select underutilised properties or those owned by absentee landlords.

"When we heard the names being read out, it was just ridiculous," said one farmer who asked not to be named. "Some are listed under the wrong owners. Some are in the wrong provinces. Some of the owners have been dead for years."

There are several black commercial farmers listed. "There is a complete lack of any professional assessment of land," the farmer added. "It's clear there is vindictiveness against many of the people selected."

## Afrikaner clan counts lost acres

Harare: The five men of the Erasmus clan sat with the other farmers in Masvingo in southern Zimbabwe and listened silently to the list of farms being read out by an official of the Commercial Farmers' Union (Jan Raath writes).

This close family of Afrikaner stock, farming in Chatsworth, 125 miles south of Harare, for more than 50 years, have lost heavily.

Coert Erasmus Jr, 27, and his father run a highly productive cattle ranch that supplies prime beef to Europe and to the local market. They have been left with a quarter of their 35,000-acre ranch, made up of several small units.

His uncle, Jannie, has lost more than half his ranch. Another uncle, Koos, got off lightly with the loss of a third.

"We will just carry on as if nothing happened," said Coert. "You can't just pack up and run away. We will make it as it comes."

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# Murder manual aided multiple killer, say judges

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS murder by the book. James Perry meticulously followed the instructions in *Hit Man*, a how-to paperback for would-be contract killers, to carry out three cold-blooded executions.

Perry was quickly caught and is on death row in Maryland. But in an unprecedented twist, the book's publishers, Paladin Press, are being sued for aiding and abetting him.

It is a bitterly fought case that has put America's vaunted freedom of speech and the press on trial. An appeal court has just ruled, in a scathing opinion, that *Hit Man* goes too far.

Paladin's president, Peter Lund, vowed yesterday, during a visit from America to his cottage in the Cotswolds, that he will fight the case all the way to the US Supreme Court.

tors said Timothy McVeigh had three Paladin books. One explained how to make explosives with ammonium nitrate, the fertiliser in the bomb that demolished the federal building, killing 168.

After the World Trade Centre bombing, the US Justice Department said the perpetrators had bomb-making information copied from books published by Paladin Press and others.

Lawrence Horn, an out-of-work sound engineer, hired Perry to kill his ex-wife and quadriplegic son so he could inherit a \$2 million (£1.25 million) trust fund intended for the boy. Perry shot the ex-wife and the son's nurse through the eyes, as instructed by *Hit Man*, and suffocated the son. The prosecution said Perry followed 22 of the book's recommendations in committing the murders.

Yet despite the book's emphasis on making a clean getaway, it was not the perfect crime. Police cracked the case by tracing phone calls from Perry to Horn, who has been sentenced to life without parole. The civil suit seeks damages from Paladin Press for the victims' families.

Some of America's most prestigious newspapers, publishers, broadcasters and journalists organisations filed amicus briefs supporting Mr Lund, who contends that a verdict against him would have a far-reaching and chilling effect on press freedom.

They included *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the ABC network, owned by Disney.

In their unanimous ruling, the three appeal court judges said it was "breathtaking", to say the least, that national media would feel obliged to defend Paladin's assertion of a constitutional right intentionally to assist murderers with information it knew would be

used in the commission of crimes. Reversing a lower court decision, the judges said material that directly aids and abets criminal activity cannot enjoy the protection of the Constitution's First Amendment, which says Congress shall pass no laws abridging freedom of speech and the press.

The ruling said the detailed instructions in *Hit Man* stand in sharp contrast to vague rhetorical threats of politically or socially motivated violence that have always been part of impassioned criticism of laws,

policies and government that is indispensable to a free society and rightly protected. Mr Lund and his lawyers admit the crime was egregious. They express sympathy for the bereaved families. But they ask why their books should be banned while there is no censorship for hundreds of novels, films and television dramas that describe how to commit crimes in detail.

A former Green Beret in Vietnam, Mr Lund stoutly defends his right to publish and be damned. He says the case has already cost him thousands of dollars.



Horn in a Los Angeles court with his lawyer. He hired Perry to kill his ex-wife and son, and was jailed for life



Lund at Paladin's warehouse in Boulder, Colorado

## Serb poll to test peace accord

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

DIPLOMATS and moderate Bosnian Serbs are hoping that parliamentary elections this weekend will finally end the political career of Radovan Karadzic, the wanted war crimes suspect.

The woman backed by the West in her attempt to get the Bosnian Serbs to comply with the Dayton peace accord, Biljana Plavsic, faces the first test of her public standing.

If her political party fails to make substantial gains and a resurgent strain of Serb radicalism makes ground, the West may be faced with the unpalatable fact that the Dayton accord is unworkable — and that Bosnia will fall apart.

More than 1.1 million have registered to vote in the Republika Srpska elections, including about a quarter of a million refugees living outside the entity, many of them Muslims.

None of the mainstream parties contesting the election advocates a unified Bosnia, but moderates who are rallying around Mrs Plavsic's Serb People's Union mollify impatient diplomats with a one-country, two-entities vision.

□ Vienna: Former Yugoslav warring factions have completed arms reductions agreed last year by destroying nearly 6,600 weapons, said Vigleik Eide, a senior Western arms negotiator. (Reuters)

## Spain says wider Nato role tied to deal on Rock

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

SPAIN yesterday accused Britain of trying to use its integration into Nato as a means of forcing it to give ground in its claims to sovereignty over Gibraltar.

Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister, said Britain was "trying to take Nato as a hostage" after Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, gave a frosty reception to Madrid's latest proposals for settling a squabble over Gibraltar airport.

Britain has made clear that it will not back current moves to bring Spain fully into the integrated military structure of the Atlantic alliance unless Madrid eases longstanding restrictions on the movement

of aircraft and ships in and out of the British territory. "If Spain is going to become a normal member of the alliance, we do not think these restrictions should apply," a British official said.

Rules imposed by Spain two decades ago say no aircraft or ship is allowed to travel between from the Rock to Spanish territory. Aircraft taking off are forced to perform abrupt manoeuvres to avoid infringing Spanish airspace.

Señor Matutes presented the first formal Spanish proposals on the dispute at a one-hour breakfast meeting with Mr Cook before the start of yesterday's EU employment summit in Luxembourg.

He suggested stationing Spanish military personnel at the airport, which is on land claimed by Spain, and sharing responsibility for air traffic control in the area.

Britain and the Gibraltar authorities had already signalled that these conditions would be unacceptable. Britain was dismayed that Señor Matutes had decided to present the proposals formally, officials said.

Spanish officials were angry over what they called the "high-handed" tone taken by Mr Cook.

## UN team back in Iraq to search for arms

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

HOW far President Saddam Hussein of Iraq may have exploited his confrontation with the United States to conceal documents and equipment related to his suspected weapons of mass destruction will become clearer when United Nations inspectors resume work today.

Between 70 and 80 UN arms experts, including Americans, returned to an icy reception in Iraq yesterday. "Down with America," read banners along their route into Baghdad from an airfield where they arrived from Bahrain. Their first task will be to assess how far their mission may have been set back by the three-week standoff.

America's mistrust of Saddam's intentions was underscored by its continuing military build-up in the Gulf. A second aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington, arrived before dawn while two of six F117 stealth fighters, ordered to the region before Russia provided the ladder for Saddam's climbdown, landed in Kuwait.

Iraqi rhetoric suggested there would be further attempts to test the UN's resolve. "Our victory in this battle will lead to several successes whose solid results will appear day after day," said al-Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. "We have proved to everyone that we have a national iron will."

However Iranian officials said the Iraqi leader had played into American hands by providing the US with an excuse to boost its military might in the Gulf, which Tehran regards as its sphere of influence.

Vital weapons inspections had been suspended since October 29 when Iraq banned American monitors and other team members refused to work without them. The six Americans still in Iraq were expelled on November 13 and 68 non-American members were withdrawn the following day in protest. Richard Butler, the UN's chief weapons inspector, said only four Americans would return, explaining the decrease as part of a routine rotation.

During their absence, Iraq was accused of tampering with cameras on a remote-controlled monitoring system at so-called dual use facilities where equipment for civilian purposes could potentially serve military programmes.

There is suspicion Saddam provoked the crisis because the inspectors were on the verge of an important discovery related to his biological warfare programme.

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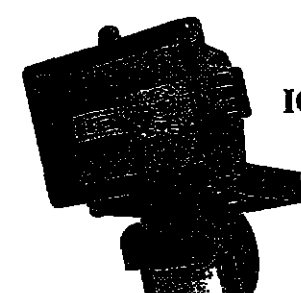
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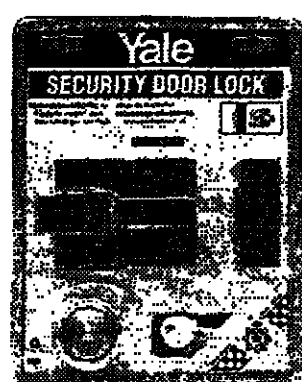
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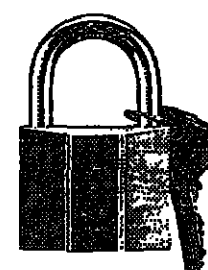
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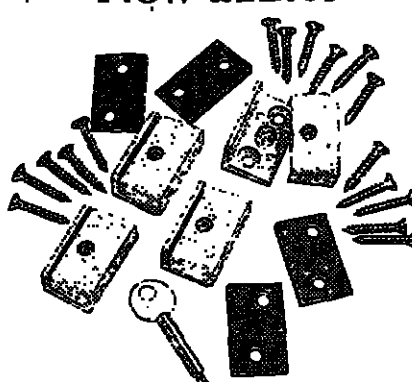


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# Lib Dem win shows Tories' unpopularity, says Ashdown

Conservatives say

Wichester was

feak result

as amble ends

inrout, writes

James Landale

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday celebrated a stunning victory in the rerun general election contest at Winchester as the Tories dismissed their drubbing as a freak result.

On Thursday, Mark Oaten transformed a two-vote majority for the former minister Gerry Malone to a 21,556 triumph. The High Court had ordered that the May 1 poll be repeated after a challenge from Mr Malone.

Paddy Ashdown yesterday joined Mr Oaten for a victory walkout in the Hampshire city and hailed one of the party's greatest successes. Battered after the declaration 13am yesterday, and the champagne party that followed, Liberal Democrat works turned out in force as passiv drivers hooted their congratulations. Mr Ashdown said the result showed the Tories were still as unpopular as ever, while his party's support continued to grow.

Lord Parkinson, the Tory chairman, said the defeat was a "freak result" and that voters had blamed the party for making the go to the polls again.

Mr Malone, the former MP, said the defeat was "unfinished business" after the general election rout. "There was a lingering memory of the unpopularity of the last Gov-



Mark Oaten, the victorious Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester, was joined by Paddy Ashdown yesterday

ernment and a lot of that stuck to me," he said. There were suggestions that Mr Malone, who was maintaining a cheerful face, might return to the newspaper industry, before standing for the Scottish parliament. "I have no immediate plans but I am still a political animal," he said.

In six months, the Liberal Democrats transformed a minuscule margin into the largest majority held by any of their 46 MPs. The High Court had declared Mr Oaten's two-vote win in May void because of ballot-paper irregularities.

The party secured an almost 20 per cent swing from the Tories: about 8,000 people who had in May voted Tory backed the Liberal Democrats, who were also boosted by concerted tactical voting as some 4,000 Labour voters switched their support to Mr Oaten. Liberal Democrats saw this as a good omen for future tactical collaborations. Labour, which had not put much effort into the campaign, lost its deposit, picking up just 944 votes.

A Liberal Democrat candidate who gained 640 votes in May won just 59 this time.

The scale of the Tory defeat, which surprised even the Liberal Democrats, can be attributed to Mr Malone's unpopularity; an absence of animosity towards Mr Oaten among Tory voters; Labour voters' willingness to vote tactically; and the continuing unpopularity of the Tory party on a national level.

Some voters felt that Mr Malone had been a bad loser for refusing to accept defeat in May. That the courts ultimately judged that he had technically won then was ignored.

Leading article and Letters, page 23

## Muted cheers greet close call

By NICHOLAS WATT

AS victory parades go it was pretty tame. Jacqui Lait, who had scraped home for the Conservatives in the once rock-solid Tory seat of Beckenham, managed only a brief appearance in her new constituency yesterday.

The former Whip, who had lost Hastings and Rye at the general election, revived her parliamentary career on Thursday night by a narrow margin when she held Beckenham previously represented by Mrs Merchant, with a majority of 1,227 over Labour. The result was an embarrassment for the Tories who have held the seat at every election since it was created in 1948.

Looking gloomy and exhausted, Mrs Lait greeted unenthusiastic shoppers for little more than ten minutes on Penge High Street yesterday. The new MP was defensive and blamed her narrow victory on the weather. It had been a "filthy November day, cold, wet and dark", she said. "People thought they would prefer to stay at home."

Tory campaign workers, who had slugged round Beckenham during the three-week campaign, were so downbeat yesterday that Mrs Lait did not appear until just before midday. "I thought it was better that I got some sleep. Otherwise I thought people may not appreciate the sight of me," she said, trying to enliven the atmosphere.

But there was little to cheer the campaign workers. One soon said she "would rather go



Jacqui Lait

BECKENHAM	
Jacqui Lait (Con)	13,182
Bob Hughes (Lab)	11,295
Rosemary Vetterlein (LD)	5,884
P Rimmer (Lib)	330
J McAuley (NF)	287
L Mead (New Brit Ref)	237
T Campbell (Soc Found Party)	69
J Small (Nat Law Party)	44
Con majority	1,227
Total vote	31,908
Turnout	43.7%

1997: Piers Merchant (C) 23,084 Bob Hughes (Lab) 18,131 Rosemary Vetterlein (LD) 9,658 L Mead (Ref) 1,683 P Rimmer (Lib) 720 O Pratt (UK Ind) 508 J McAuley (NF) 389

home. It is pointless, the atmosphere is so bad."

Mrs Lait, a usually bubbly person, headed for a smarter area, Beckenham High Street, to see if things were better. A few pensioners out shopping greeted her. One said: "I voted for Jacqui and she seems very nice. I think a lot of the old ladies did not bother."

## Hague's glimmer of hope fades to gloom

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Tories are still reeling from their May 1 rout. However much special and unusual circumstances in both Beckenham and Winchester are discounted, the two contests wipe out the mid-summer glimmer of hope of the increased Tory majority at the Uxbridge by-election. The party has not yet drawn a line under its defeat.

After Tony Blair's rough last few weeks, he will be relieved that Labour improved its share of the vote at the Beckenham by-election, from 33 to 37 per cent. The party's wipe-out in Winchester is largely irrelevant, set against the runaway success of Mark Oaten, the re-elected Liberal Democrat. Of course, the near 20 per cent swing from the Tories to the Lib Dems is fantasy politics. But the result gives Paddy Ashdown a powerful answer against internal party critics of his closer co-operation with Mr Blair.

Mr Ashdown's policy of "constructive opposition" has withstood its first key test. Lab-Libery will be taken a step further in the next

fortnight when the commission on electoral reform is finally set up.

But Winchester is unlikely to be the prelude to further Lib Dem by-election victories against the Tories. The problems which Gerry Malone faced on Thursday will not apply in any other Tory-held seat where a vacancy occurs.

Moreover, when, rather than if, the Government runs into mid-term unpopularity, the beneficiary is likely to be the Tories, not the Lib Dems. The old Liberal Party seldom achieved gains when Labour was in power, apart from taking the odd rundown inner-city seat such as Birmingham Ladywood in 1969 and Liverpool Edge Hill in 1979. David Steel was the last Liberal, in March 1965, to capture a Tory-held seat when Labour was in office.

This all depends on the Tories becoming credible. William Hague cannot be blamed for the misfortunes

of Piers Merchant and the unpopularity of Mr Malone. Nonetheless, 40 per cent of those who voted for Mr Malone on May 1 either stayed at home or backed Mr Oaten on Thursday. In Beckenham, where turnout fell sharply, an even higher proportion, 43 per cent, did not back Jacqui Lait, mostly in this case staying at home. Of course, voters do not like what they see as unnecessary by-elections.

But the results show how much the Tories have to do to rebuild public confidence. In this respect, it was slightly bizarre to choose such a day to highlight Tory divisions over Europe. Peter Temple-Morris has been an increasingly semi-detached member of the Tory party and did not complain about the axe descending. Nonetheless, this just shows that the Tories will endure more troubles before recovery starts.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Hampstead stuck in legal gridlock

A plan to cut congestion has been delayed by a handful of objectors.

Reports by Dominic Kennedy

As Glenda Jackson prepares to declare war on commuter traffic, a battle is taking place on her own doorstep between champions of the car and campaigners for the environment.

The wide avenues of her constituency, built to accommodate horse-drawn carriages, have become the scenes of such daily chaos that Ben Elton chose Hampstead in North London for the climax of his and-car novel *Gridlock*, about a giant traffic jam.

One of Elton's characters says: "It is mayhem out there! The minute word goes around that anything above fifteen inches of London kerbstone has become vacant, it is a battle zone, guys! They're all screaming 'Mine, mine' and spitting and snarling and throwing boiled sweets and road atlases at each other. People will kill to park! They will kill themselves to park!"

Ms Jackson, the London Transport Minister, has issued a Green Paper that anticipates the end of free on-street parking, to stop commuters driving to work and dumping their vehicles all day. But two barristers in her constituency have shown how easy it is to sabotage the kind of residents-only zones which the Government now advocates. Using legal arguments and court action, they have outwitted the Labour council in court to delay the introduction of parking restrictions by seven years, at a cost to local taxpayers of thousands of pounds.

The result is that commuters still flock to the area every day, fighting for space in what locals describe as the capital's biggest free car park. Feelings are running so high that Jonathan Turner, one of the lawyers, has been threatened with violence. Problems began in 1991 when Camden council turned the town centre of Hampstead into a controlled parking zone where residents had to buy annual permits to leave their cars in special bays. Commuters responded by leaving their vehicles in the neighbouring areas of Belsize Park and Primrose Hill. Camden council intended to extend the residents-only parking zones to these areas too. Not only did this anti-commuter policy fit with the borough's image as the most environmentally conscious in

London, it is also a way of making large amounts of money without putting up taxes. Residents' parking zones create a profit of £6 million a year for Camden, which the council uses to subsidise public transport for the elderly and infirm.

But some car owners resent having to pay to park outside their homes. They argued that residents-only zones would deter friends and relatives from visiting. The housebound would be lonelier than ever. Led by Mark Cran, QC, a barrister who has fought for the singers George Michael and Holly Johnson, ten Primrose Hill residents took Camden to court. Among the objectors was the former Downing Street caterer, Clare Latimer.

They persuaded Mr Justice McCullough in 1995 that, when Camden consulted local people, it had already made up its mind to introduce a zone. Camden had to begin consulting all over again. In summer

1996, the council said it was ready to restrict parking in Belsize Park from January 1997. However, Mr Turner, a barrister from Gospel Oak, argued that the permit charges of £82 a year were excessive. Camden capitulated and paid MORI £20,000 to poll residents across the borough about what would be a fair price. The people seemed to support the current charge. In September this year, counsel warned Camden that this was not enough: it would have to consult the people of Belsize Park alone on the cost of permits. May 1998 is now the latest target date for zones to come in.

Ms Jackson is facing the frustration of old friends such as the playwright Peter Nichols, one of her election canvassers, who has long campaigned against the cult of the motor car. His 1974 play, *The Freeway*, was about a giant traffic jam.

Instead of completing his umpteenth questionnaire, Mr Nichols told the council: "Don't expect us to waste more time filling your office with waste paper." He says: "Camden has buckled under the personal reaction of one individual in Gospel Oak with crackpot objections."

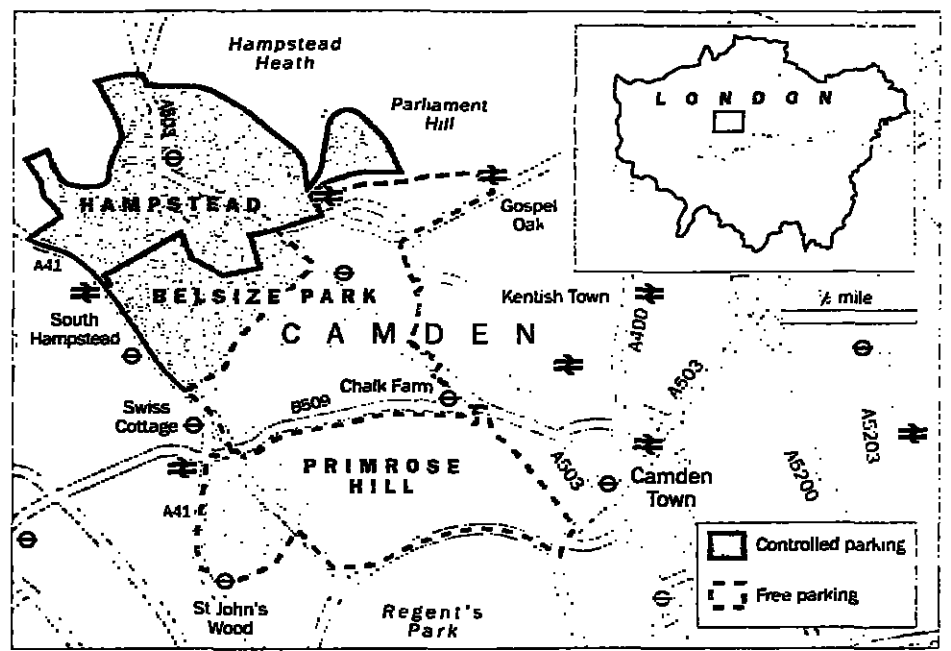
He has nicknamed the area "Belsize Car Park", but when he wrote to Ms Jackson about this, he says, she just thanked him for his letter and enclosed



The playwright Peter Nichols, who has long campaigned against the car, right, parents dropping off children at school are blamed for adding to traffic congestion



Mark Cran, Clare Latimer and Jonathan Turner have fought parking restrictions



some Labour Party literature. Two residents have been awarded £250 compensation each by Camden after complaining about the delay. One of them, Angela Warden, said the area was a low priority to the council. "Some of it is old Labour and dinosaur views. They sneer at people living in Hampstead sending their children to private schools," she said.

So far, Ms Jackson has avoided taking sides in public. But she will be urged to get off the fence when consultation on her Green Paper ends next Friday.

Deborah Sacks, who chaired Camden's environment committee through most of the saga, said: "All the rules in the book have been used to try to delay the process. It is something that needs to be looked at in terms of simplifying the legislation."

Peter Nichols, page 22

## TACKLING THE SCHOOL RUN

A GIRLS' independent school cut traffic by a quarter by encouraging pupils to walk, get the bus, or travel by car in groups. The Royal School in Hampstead has won praise from the Government's pollution advisers and is about to become a model for schools, colleges, offices and hospitals. When governors wanted to increase the roll of day girls, Camden council said they could have planning permission for an extra 50 pupils only if the "school run" was cut by 30 per cent in three years. The bursar, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Rixon, who had dealt with logistics at the Ministry of Defence, compared the postcodes of all 108 day pupils. He suggested to neighbouring parents that they should

share car journeys. Private minibuses were arranged. The bursar also wrote to parents suggesting they used smaller cars. Within a year, traffic had declined from 148 cars during the peak hour on Friday afternoon to 114, a fall of 23 per cent. The school is praised in the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's latest report. Its chairman, Sir John Houghton, said yesterday: "It is an excellent idea. A great deal more could be done by sharing trips to businesses, shops and schools." Camden has decided to use the same methods at a state school. Businesses in the borough are working on similar plans.

Leading article, page 23

## Making a will?

If you die without leaving a will, you could create unnecessary difficulties for your loved ones. Your property may go to people you'd prefer not to have it. And the Inland Revenue could take a larger slice of your property than if you had taken control of your affairs. *Make Your Own Will* is an informative, step-by-step Action Pack from Which? Written in plain, straightforward language, it will enable most people to write their own will without a solicitor, using one of the four types of will form supplied. The pack gives:

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# RAF officer's mistress 'would go with anyone'

Murder trial told of 'promiscuous' interpreter, writes Michael Horsnell

THE attractive Serb interpreter for whom an RAF officer allegedly murdered his wife was a "tricky and promiscuous" young woman prepared to prostitute herself with anybody for her advancement, a court was told yesterday.

Within days of being told by Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker of the death of his wife, in a faked car crash, 21-year-old Dijana Dudokovic decided against joining him in England and began an affair with a Swiss restaurateur in the ski resort of Verbier, Norwich Crown Court heard.

The officer, who had had a five-month affair with her in Bosnia, where he served as a military observer, made daily telephone calls to her before and after the alleged murder, upon his return to Britain in July 1995. And he sent her a five-page letter in which he repeated the words "I love you" — like a "schoolboy's punishment".

But she tore it up without replying and burnt it, the court was told. The end of her affair with the 40-year-old officer was described to the jury by Bertrand du Pasquier, a former Swiss civil servant who served in Bosnia with the UN High Commission, on the fifth day of Mr Tucker's murder trial.

Mr du Pasquier told the court that, after Miss Dudokovic received a call from Squadron Leader Tucker,



Squadron Leader Tucker: he had five-month affair Bertrand du Pasquier, left: he denied relationship



er, she realised it was not possible for her to go in England to join him. "She realised her future would break down and she said, 'Now I am ready to do anything. I am even ready to prostitute myself. I am ready even to go with an old man in Switzerland.'"

He added: "She was tricky." She had a lot of friends in the United Nations Protection Force, "I know that she was a promiscuous woman."

Squadron Leader Tucker denies murdering his wife Carol, 52, on the night of July 21, 1995 by staging a car accident in which his Ford Fiesta plunged into the River Lark in Suffolk. Mrs Tucker was found drowned under a

bridge, but only after her husband had asphyxiated her, it is alleged. The prosecution claims that it was all for the love of Miss Dudokovic, who never saw him again and has subsequently married.

Mr de Pasquier, who later supervised elections in the former Yugoslavia, told the court that, at the request of Miss Dudokovic's father, who worked in his office in the UN's Northern Sector headquarters at Topuska, he obtained a visa for her and paid her air fare to Switzerland. Mr du Pasquier said he returned to Geneva in June 1995 and the following month Miss Dudokovic arrived to stay with him and his children at their home, later spending several days

with them at his chalet in Verbier.

It was at the Swiss resort that she began an affair with Heinz Walder after meeting him at his restaurant, the Al Capone Pizzeria, and moved into his chalet.

Mr du Pasquier, now a consultant with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, denies that he ever had an affair with Miss Dudokovic. He said that it was for compassionate reasons that he agreed to get her out of Bosnia. Asked why she had moved on from his home, he said: "She was ready to follow anybody."

He said he got "fed up" with the way the "manipulative" young woman used his home as a "sort of Post Office". "As soon as she arrived in Geneva at my home I had arguments with her about her behaviour. I tried to say to her to leave my home. When she finally met Mr Walder and decided to go with him, it was a very good solution for myself."

Miss Dudokovic left after allegedly taking a gold bracelet worth \$3,000 from Mr du Pasquier when he refused to give her money. He said Miss Dudokovic received calls every day from Squadron Leader Tucker during her two weeks in Geneva. These included one on the morning of Mrs Tucker's murder and one two days afterwards, on July 23.

The trial continues.



Dijana Dudokovic was described in court as "tricky and promiscuous"

## Death of winchman blamed on ship's SOS delay

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE son of the helicopter winchman who was swept into the sea to his death while rescuing the crew of a cargo vessel forced onto rocks in Shetland said yesterday that they had been "incompetent and unthoughtful".

Alan Deacon, 24, blamed the loss of his father, Bill Deacon, on poor management and incompetence by the captain and crew of the Bahamas-based *Green Lily*. Mr Deacon, a Royal Navy petty officer, alleged that the handling of the emergency was motivated by money.

His accusations were backed by coastguard sources, who said that both the crew of the Bristow helicopter, on contract to Shetland coastguard, and the lifeboatmen were furious over the apparent delay in the skipper's decision to radio a distress call in such terrible conditions.

The dead man's son told a news conference in Aberdeen: "It never matters how stupid or ignorant the people who get themselves into these situations might be — as with the crew of the *Green Lily*, who proved themselves to be completely unthoughtful and incompetent."

"Whatever way you look at it, the lack of leadership skills and good decision-making on behalf of the ship's skipper have led to the death of my dad. What that has been driven by is money. Strangely enough, money is something my dad always said is not important and that was never ever his main concern."

"I always replied: 'It's just as well, Dad, because you could never get paid enough for what you do.'"

Ezio Abram, the captain of the wrecked freighter, wept yesterday during a press conference at Lerwick as he said he was "very sorry" that Bill Deacon had lost his life.

Mr Abram then denied that he and his crew had shown poor seamanship during the rescue on Wednesday afternoon. He had held a master's licence since 1984 and had been with this company for a year. He said he had crossed the Atlantic 66 times and was used to sailing in bad weather.

The ship's owners, the Norwegian company Green Chartering, also supported his decision not to abandon the *Green Lily* earlier.

Mr Deacon's body was discovered on Thursday close to the island of Bressay.



Bill Deacon: died while rescuing ship's crew

## Raging thirst 'wakes little hibernators'

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE mystery of why hibernating animals such as dormice, bats and hedgehogs wake up briefly during the winter may have been solved. Scientists have evidence that, like human beings after a night on the tiles, the animals become ferociously thirsty and rouse themselves from deep slumber for a drink.

Paul Bright, a zoologist at Royal Holloway and Bedford College in Eggham, Surrey, said yesterday: "With the dormouse, 70 per cent to 90 per cent of the energy expended during hibernation is expended during these arousals."

One theory is that waste products build up and need to be flushed out. Other theories vary from circadian rhythms — natural cycles of sleeping and waking — to the loss of certain sleep patterns.

But a team at the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada, and the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, believe dehydration is the key. Their findings are published in *Functional Ecology*, a journal of the British Ecological Society.

The researchers have calculated evaporation rates from

little brown bats and golden-mantled ground squirrels over a range of hibernating temperatures. "Our analysis suggests that [the phenomenon] may be influenced by evaporative water loss, indicating that the animals may need to obtain free water when they arouse," say the scientists.

A study of the burrows of the ground squirrels indicates they are designed to produce water droplets for drinking. Dr Bright said the findings were backed up by research in Britain, where studies of pipistrelle bats indicate a main cause of death during hibernation is dehydration. It is one of the main reasons to rise and lick moisture off a cave wall. "Dormice here almost certainly do the same thing," he said, adding that the nests of hedgehogs may also serve as reservoirs.

Studies show that dormice rouse themselves about every eight days and warm themselves up to "full operating temperature". Dr Bright thinks it may be to keep all the organs in good shape. "It is analogous to turning up the car in winter to get the parts working," he said.



### STYLE

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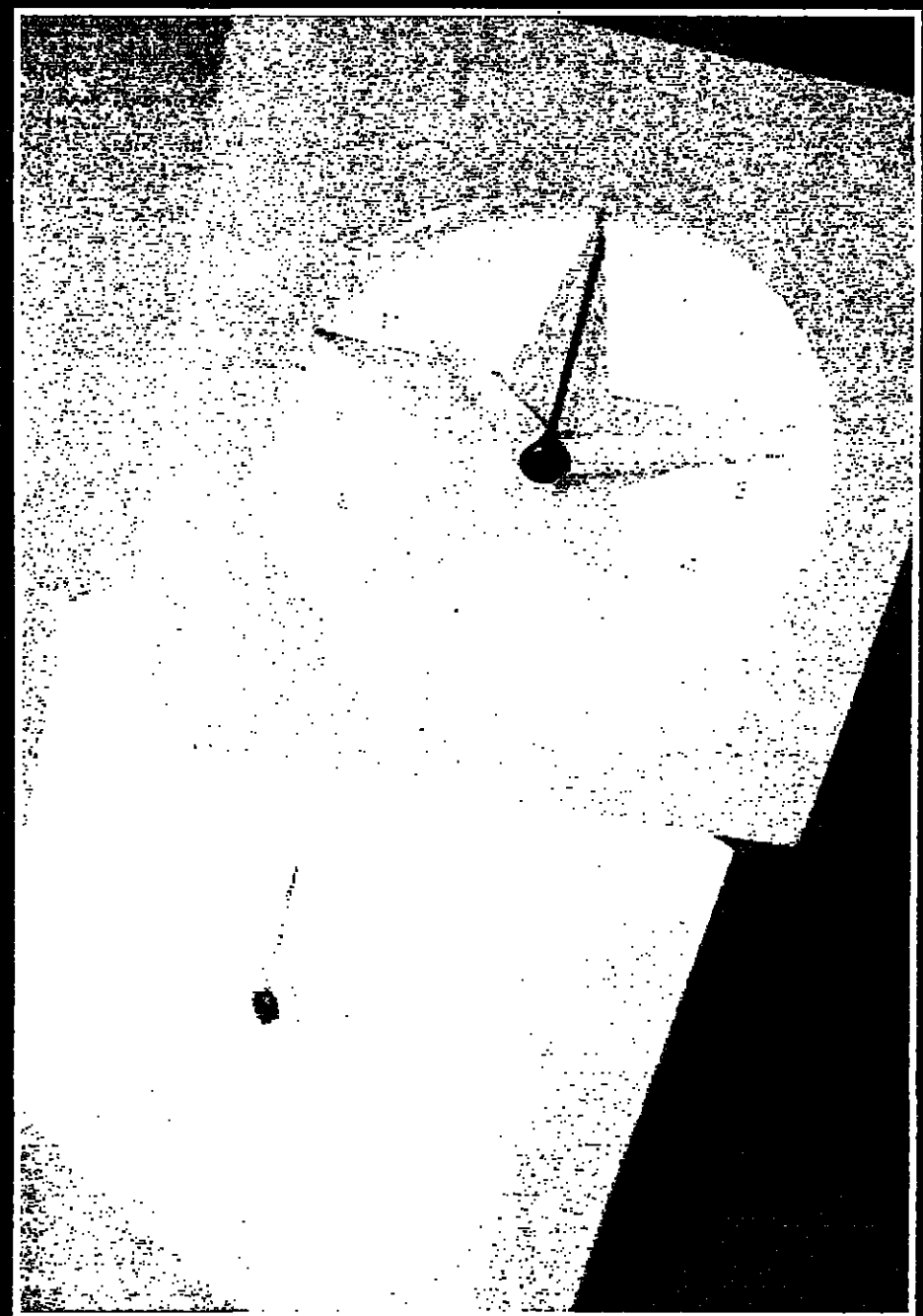
### CULTURE

**KISS SEX GOODBYE**  
It's time to go back in the closet, says Bryan Appleyard



### MAGAZINE

**THE FULL MONTY MAN**  
Relax with a hot chocolate and Errol Brown

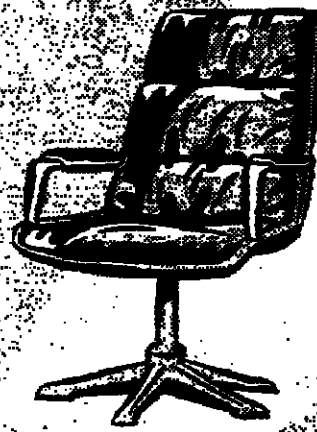


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# My obsession with the tango

Director Sally Potter became so passionate about the Argentine dance that she had to make a film about it — starring herself

There is no dance quite as seductive as the tango. It developed in the bars and brothels of Buenos Aires to the wistful, melancholy moans of the accordion and the violin: intimate, full of wordless passion, sexually suggestive, absorbing to watch, addictive to perform.

Sally Potter's new film *The Tango Lesson*, filmed in glorious black and white, passed the supreme test this week: it opened in Buenos Aires (I was terrified, as you can imagine) and the Argentine critics waxed ecstatic. At last, they said, someone from outside Argentina had made a film about their culture without clichés. And it is all her own work: she wrote it, directed it, stars in it in three languages; she dances, sings, and wrote the original music for it. (Beat that, Woody Allen.)

Potter is a remarkable person: small, calm, with fine eyes and cheekbones and an aura of stillness and intensity. She left Camden School for Girls at 16 with a burning desire to be a film director. Bohemian, she says, is a good old-fashioned way of describing her family. "Very left-wing values, no money, but always music in the house, and enormous independence for the children." In the 1960s, she lived in squares, making short no-budget films, studying choreography and dance, washing vegetables in restaurants, learning how to live on nothing a year. In 1992 her fourth film, of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, appeared and was garlanded with awards, after years of persistence: "I have letters from producers saying *Orlando* was technically, ideologically, aesthetically and financially a total impossibility." How she now comes to make her screen acting debut at 47 is a story which forms the scenario of *The Tango Lesson*.

In 1993 she was working at home, at a round white table in an old warehouse in Shoreditch, writing a film script with the excellent title of *Rage*, a thriller set in Paris in the world of haute couture. Then she happened to go to an Astor Piazzolla concert, and to the hit show *Tango Argentino*, and was taken over — consumed — by a longing to learn the tango.

"I'd been a choreographer. I could recognise a seriously different vocabulary of movement. I was stunned by the complexity of the rhythms. And I loved the fact that teenagers danced alongside people in their fifties and sixties, that this dance had nothing to do with being young and thin and wearing Lycra leggings."

Seized by the desire, and blessed with a natural grace, she found an Argentine tango teacher in London, Carlos Gavito, at The Place off Euston Road — where she had once studied modern ballet. "Tango invaded my consciousness. I was literally dreaming every night that I could dance much better than I could; like a flying dream."

Anyone who has taken up the tango in the Latin fever of recent years will understand this. I, too, have been dragged by my tango-dancing, Argentina-raised hus-



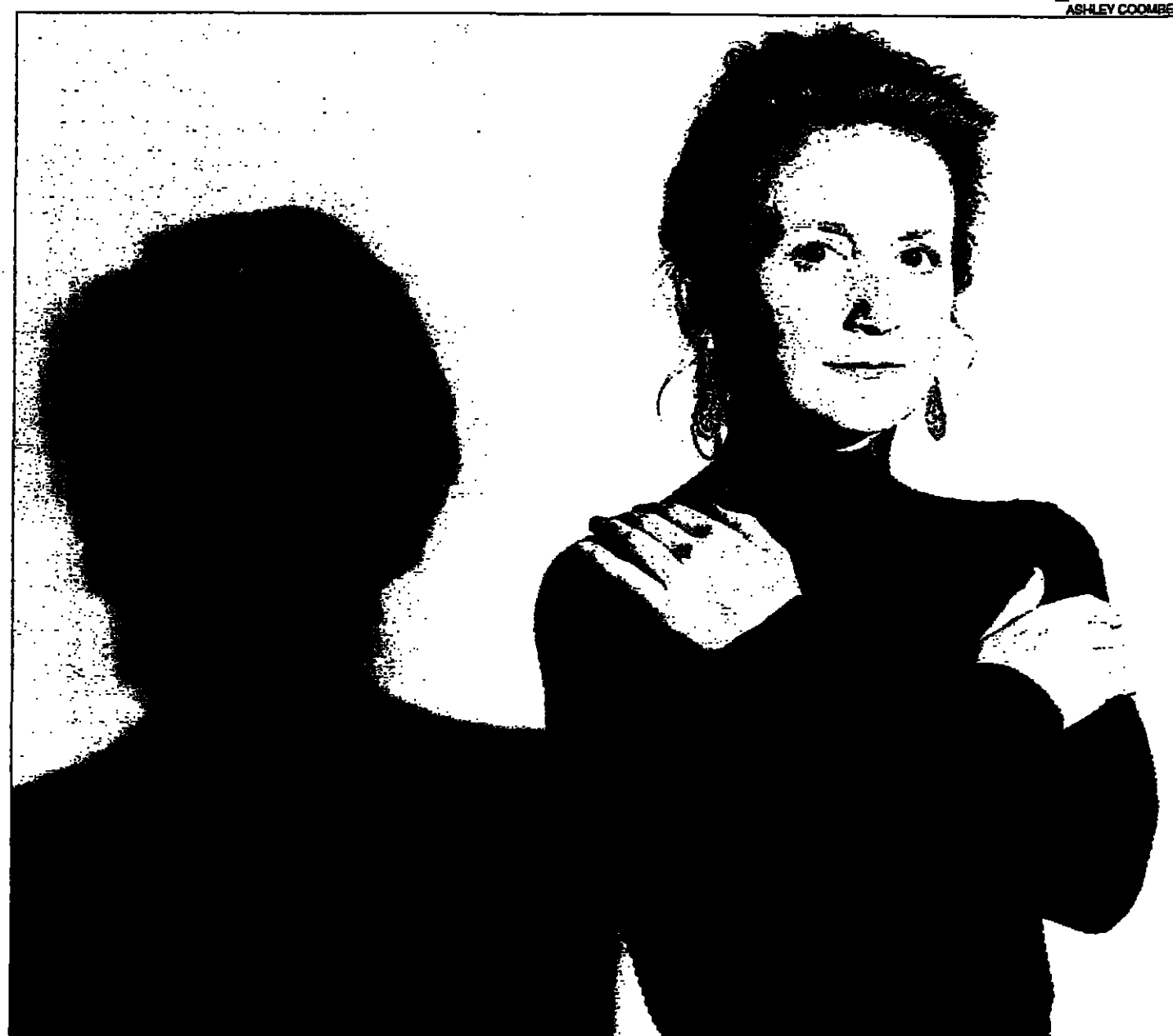
Valerie Grove

band to the Friday night sessions at the London Welsh Centre — where Clive James is often seen, hooked on tango ever since he did his *Postcard from Buenos Aires*. Clive fits in perfectly: tango classes are full of stocky fellows in gangster suits who crush their partners to their manly chests and "dance like angels", as Potter says.

When she went to Paris to do research for *Rage*, she was told she must seek out Pablo Verón, one of the world's greatest tango dancers. She watched him dance at the Folies Bergère, and started taking lessons with him every day — using French as their common language; hers is now excellent and her Spanish isn't bad either.

She then went off alone to Buenos Aires and returned five times in the same year. Yes, she sat in cafés all by herself, just as in the film. She took tango lessons every day, and was in the clubs every night till dawn without fail. (Buenos Aires is a city where a lone woman can feel safe, even at four in the morning.) "And I came back to Pablo a year later, having learnt quite a lot." Enough to perform in public as Pablo's partner in Amsterdam and Marseille. How could she afford all those flights to Buenos Aires? "Debt," she replies. "I have long since learnt that the kind of tightrope I walk relies on keeping your nerve financially and creatively. You navigate the water and don't let money make any difference to what line you pursue."

**R**age was about to go into production. The money was there. But she had become disenchanted with her own idea. She could no longer stomach the idea of making a thriller. "I wanted to do something that came out of there" (putting her breast "rather than something intellectually driven, trivialising death, holding the world at arm's length. I wanted to make something raw and immediate and different in scale from *Orlando*, which is epic." So why not make a film about the tango... "Filming dancing is *fendishly* difficult and takes enormous ingenuity. And how the hell do you integrate dance with a storyline



The tango invaded Sally Potter's consciousness. "I was dreaming every night that I could dance much better than I could"

that's anything other than a clothesline of pegs to hang dances on? It was only then that I realised I had to venture into territory that was extremely close to the bone: I was living a version of it." She would film her own story. Her producer, Christopher Sheppard, organised the money (from all over the world) and it became a "let's do the show right here", about a film director (played by herself) and her tango teacher, Pablo, played by himself.

But would it seem self-indulgent to star in her own film? "More like a merciless exposure of my own vulnerability," she says. We see her tentative attempts at tango steps, her awkwardness in having to be led, her jealousy when Pablo dances with his partner. It is all the more touching that she is a woman of 47 with a lived-in face, and none of the attributes of the flashing-eyed señorita; and all the more touching for being true.

Is she in love with Pablo in fact? She ponders. "I would say totally in love with him, in many and strange ways. It is a relationship driven by the love of work. We've talked about this a lot: the thing we recognise in each other is the



A scene from *The Tango Lesson*

complete primacy of work. We don't have a romantic relationship in the accepted sense. We made a decision not to spell out the letter of what our personal relationship is, because it would rob the story in the film, which is about different kinds of love interweaving in a peculiar way.

"I always fall in love with people

I'm working with anyway. It's always two years of complete passion, and it's impossible in my view to be a director without profoundly loving the actors you have to, to put them on the screen."

She has never married, although she remains "involved". "But it's not a tie. I've always been completely free to follow my Muse. Pablo was also in that situation, but he, too, is so driven that both of us would drop everything for this." They have just been travelling around the United States launching their film.

Where did she get her immaculate director's eye? Where did she learn to frame each shot, by "visceral principles of proportion and composition"? Michael Powell was her hero and mentor.

The film is dedicated to "my beloved father Norman Potter" who died just as filming began. "The loss of him pervaded the whole experience, but not in a negative way. I was grieving, but I could see his death in terms of what he'd taught me in life, and a love of men. Which is so much what tango is about anyway: love and loss and melancholy and painful embrace."

Her father called himself a poet, she says, but he was really a carpenter, and a teacher of design. "He was dedicated to work. He said work is the clue to identity."

"He was an autodidact who left school at 14 and was full of curiosity and hunger for learning until the moment he died. I was brought up to know that the only things that you learn that really endure are the things you learn from experience rather than education. Both my grandmothers were actresses; so, to a degree, that is in my blood. All the reading I've done is from my curiosity. Formal education never attracted me."

"Everyone is born with curiosity, every child finds learning pleasurable. But most education seems to knock that out of people and substitute habit, which is not the same thing at all. So people become afraid of learning, and they don't pursue their dreams."

Sally Potter has pursued her dream. A *brava!*

There are 25 pairs of tickets for Tuesday night's premiere for the first 25 readers to telephone Adventure Pictures, 0171-613 2233, on Sunday from noon until 2pm

## Elizabethan adventurers are brought to book in Irish fable

THREE Elizabethans are attacked in an Irish forest, and in the confusion the one called William is left half-drowned in a big puddle. Rescued and taken to a castle belonging to a compatriot called Edmund, he ends up fitting a fine-looking girl with a sudden "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate". Yes, it's *Will Shakespeare*, on some misguided tour of duty in the Emerald Isle and revealing his identity to her, to us, and to his host, who is none other than Edmund Spenser.

For a moment it seems as preposterous as a top-hatted stranger in downtown Haworth introducing himself to Emily Brontë with a cry of "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". Yet Frank McGuinness is too interesting, bold and important a playwright to be shrugged off.

### THEATRE

#### Mutabilitie Cottesloe

*Mutabilitie* is a clotted, wordy piece which even Trevor Nunn's lucid direction cannot render accessible or enjoyable. But the sometimes stilted dialogue cannot camouflage the quality of mind and imagination.

The action occurs after the Münster atrocities of the 1580s, events that, in McGuinness's view, crystallise the sometimes hot often cold, war between the English and the Irish. Dispossessed rebels, led by a senile chieftain and his bloodthirsty queen, lurk in the woods, preparing for revenge on Spenser, who hopes to rid the Roman Catholic heathen of their "errors of law, custom, religion".

Everywhere there are contradictions. Spenser's wife (Diana Hardcastle) one moment mocks the Irish as "vermin", the next succumbs embarrassingly to their charms. Spenser himself (Patrick Malahide) runs mad as he tries to reconcile his horror at peasant sufferings with his devotion to Gloriana, alias the Faerie Queen.

As for the Irish, they are variously proud, sly, murderous, self-destructive and fatalistic. Their final renunciation of their warrior past in favour of sackcloth, ashes and the power of prayer, is, I suppose, meant to echo down the aeons. But so is a healing and maybe rather sentimental ending in which childhood innocence thaws hard hearts.

A fierce Aislinn O'Sullivan, a majestic Frances Tomelty and the rest of Nunn's strong cast leave you with great, gristly mouthfuls to chew on, not least the question of the function of the writer in troubled times. Should Shakespeare — in Anton Lesser's performance, a feisty Prospero — join the political fray or rely on his art to spread a more general humanity? The answer is a long time coming, but I was glad I stayed to hear it.

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# He just had to get away from it all

Flight is right — but don't bank on paradise, says Simon Barnes

There is no doubt about the hero of the week: Fenn Chapman, the Rugby schoolboy who ran away to Barbados instead of working for his GCSEs. He swapped exams and the English November for a dream of paradise: never mind gerunds and voltmeters, bring a large rum punch straight to my personal palm tree.

Running away is the most glorious of solutions to every problem in life. Running away from something bad; running towards something good — it is hard to separate these primary urges. Both stem from the conviction that a better life not only exists, but has a physical location. Call it the Gauguin syndrome.

Gauguin fled towards Tahiti in search of paradise. He found an island riddled with syphilis and French bureaucracy, but it took more than reality to worry him. Never mind what Gauguin found: what he painted was paradise.

James Joyce ran away, not towards. Anywhere that was not Ireland was paradise. His aim was to fly by the nets of religion and nation. It was a wild and reckless move and he could not do it on his own. He flew with Nora Barnacle.

Joyce's father summed up, accurately, as it turned out: "She'll stick to him anyway."

Running away, then, has the highest artistic endorsement. Running away can be regarded as an act of supreme courage. It is, after all, through flight rather than fight that you take wing.

I ran away myself, once. I did not, alas, find myself in a land of brown-skinned ladies wearing nothing but the occasional flower nor did I write *Ulysses*. I ran away (rather than towards) because being a provincial journalist was so frightfully boring, and I was so frightfully bad at it. But also, I had a romantic yearning for the East.

It was an aspect of the time. Going to India was, in the 1960s, considered the solution to — well, just about everything. Western civilisation was over, man. Seek the truth in India, in Nepal. The truth meant sitting in cafes getting stoned and hepatitis and sometimes religion.

For many that went (and survived), running away may have been a disappointment. But at least it was flight. Chapman knows that better than most. "He needed to get away to find his inner self," a friend told a reporter.

I did not run towards India. I ran away to Hong Kong and a job on the *South China Morning Post*, from which I was promptly fired. I did not expect paradise, or even naked women. But not expecting, I found nothing disappointing. Four years and a thousand adventures around Asia was, indeed, paradise enough. Flight is always good. So

long as you are running hard, you are ahead of the game. Running towards is dangerous. Seeking paradise is dangerous enough: expecting paradise is almost invariably a disaster.

I read this week of a British couple who went to live in a paradise called Australia. John and Jackie Boyd are to star in a television documentary about the experience. It was ghastly. It seems they found the beer rather cold and the sun rather warm.

There is, of course, no pleasing some people. There are those who, lying on the Caribbean beach like James Bond in *Dr No* and seeing Ursula Andress emerge from the sea clad in white bikini, white belt and knife, would have sent her back on the ground that her belt needed blanching.

Such people believe that if it is happening where I am, then it cannot be paradise. I refuse to belong to any club that will accept me as a member. Which is one way of dealing with life. A miseryguts is seldom disappointed.

But there is a worse way of attacking life. That is to live in one place, utterly convinced that paradise has a physical location — and never going there. Moscow!

**'Running away is an act of supreme courage'**

Moscow! Moscow! That is the great cry of *The Three Sisters*: "People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy. If I lived in Moscow, I don't think I'd care what the weather was like."

This other-country business can become just a stick with which to wallop your home, your family, your life. Francophilia is a traditional manifestation of this, and is still prevalent. When I find cheese served before the pudding, I reach for my revolver. So right-minded, Descartes, you know, and *what's the English for cafe/etere?*

Nowadays, America is more often encountered as a receptacle for dreams, for yearnings of paradise. It is also a mighty cudgel with which to belabour England. The glorious classlessness of America is a heady freedom for its occasional English visitors. New York, New York!

Actually, New Yorkers don't rave about the wonderful energy of their home town, still less its heady freedoms. They complain about crime and filth and the prices, and look forward to a visit to a gorgeous, trouble-free paradise such as little old England.

Still, I will give the last word to an American, one Bob Dylan: "The moral of this story/The moral of this song/Is simply that a man should never be/Where a man does not belong/And if you see a neighbour carrying/Help him with his load/And don't go mistaking paradise/For that home across the road."

## NATURE NOTES



Ekkes out its miserable existence at the very bottom of the deep. Not large enough for the market until much later in its cycle.

William Hake  
(Piscatoris by electoris)

# Monarch of hearts

As the head of a troubled family, the Queen has won herself new affection

Tony Blair is already comparing himself to Disraeli in his dealings with the Queen. In preparing for this week's golden wedding celebrations, she told him: "Don't be too effusive." He said he could not obey this command. He said to her face at Thursday's banquet: "Sorry Ma'am, but I am from the Disraeli school of Prime Ministers." He enthused: "You are so dignified yet down to earth... so unstuffy, unfussy, unfazed by anything, with a keen sense of humour and a mean ability for mimicry... You are the Best of British."

The Queen replied in kind. "I believe that there is an air of confidence in this country of ours just now," she said. Britain was a glad, confident land. This is a high-octane affair. New Labour, New Empress of India. My own contact with the monarch this week was more prosaic. She stopped her crossing Storey's Gate by "going walkabout" on her way from the Abbey. She looked fresh and relaxed, and smiled quizzically at a small crowd of tourists. She was on her way to what the spin-doctors dubbed "the people's banquet", at which she skilfully yielded to her critics without seeming to do so. Thus does a wise Sovereign nudge another sandbag on to the anti-republican dyke.

How different it all seems from just three months ago. Of all the drive regularly written about the British monarchy, none is as drizzling as greets a royal crisis. The monarchy cannot survive this shock, the media screams at each divorce. "This is the end of the monarchy," proclaims each revelation of adultery. "Another nail in the coffin of the monarchy," was trumpeted at the death of Diana. On each occasion, "the monarchy is in crisis... under threat... can never be the same again".

This week was the antidote. As Diana's funeral was a well-crafted mix of collective and personal grief, so the golden wedding was a mix of marital celebration and constitutional renewal. The inclusion of "ordinary" people at the banquet contrived to be more than a gimmick. The Queen's speech, though drenched in spin, was a masterpiece. It identified monarchy with democracy, both requiring "the support and consent of the people", albeit in different guises.

The monarch duly promised to hear the people's message, to penetrate the obscuring veil of "deference and rhetoric" that she is (intriguingly) aware surrounds her office. The

head that wears the crown lies always uneasy, but it lies secure. This is the business of Diana, the field of flowers, the scars and bruises, deftly tucked into the box of history. How well the British constitution recovers its equilibrium. The centre always holds. Mere anarchy is loosed upon other worlds, but not on Britain.

Yet this week did more than shake "new Labour" glitter on the British monarchy — and vice versa. It acknowledged a change in the concept of family royalty which, for 30 years, has hesitantly underpinned the British Crown. In the mid-1960s the Queen decided, on the advice of

her then secretary William Heseltine, to make the Royal Family a public adjunct to her reign. Previous Royal Families had been little seen and rarely heard. This one should appear on television and share in public duties.

The royal children would harness family values to the cause of heredity. The public might find it hard to identify with a Queen, but it could surely see in her family a mirror of its own. This strategy has been tested to destruction. The collective monarchy, "the firm", has been sullied by one catastrophe after another. Of the Queen's four children, three embarked on marriages that failed. The fourth remains determinedly unwed. The self-proclaimed first family has been no advertisement for the sanctity of wedding vows, nor for the stability of family values. To be fair, it no longer pretends to be.

The marriage of the Queen and her husband has survived for 50 years and has been strong. Yet the most effective lesson that Prince Philip could offer in commenting on it was that "tolerance is the one essential ingredient to any happy marriage". The Queen replied in kind. She referred to her husband's "forthright manner" and complimented him as her "strength and stay". This was meagre fare for a nation freely and publicly invited to the golden wedding feast. Might not a certain four-letter word have sneaked past the scriptwriter's pen?

Yet all public talk about families tends to be either trite or tripe. The poor Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Abbey address, had to steer a perilous course. Choosing his platitudes with care, he intoned that marriage was "a basic building-block of any society and the surest foundation of family life". Given the track record of his regal audience, he wisely added that he meant no rebuke to "those for whom [marriage] has never been a way of life, or those whose experience of marriage has been neither as long-lasting nor as secure" as that of the royal couple.

The occasion was strangely underwhelming as an affirmation of familial joy. I found it the more real for that. The past week has emphasised what has been a long-term shift in the status of the Royal Family as national exemplar. For explanation we must recall the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The scale of that mourning was not, in my view, due to her beauty or status or charity work. It was due to her fall from grace.

Diana at her wedding was admired as a synthetic Princess, a creature of Barbara Cartland out of *Hello!* magazine. But happiness in public figures is dull. Only in their unhappiness do we feel close to them. By the time of her death, Diana was patron saint of the emotionally dispossessed. She was evidence that all the world's material blessings do not bring joy. They can rather bring illness, pain, loneliness, loss of love, a touch of malice, a reckless lust, a final tragedy. We are mean of spirit who cannot at least empathise with that. In her misery the new Diana became soulmate to a generation.

The old Royal Family was as artificial a construct as the old Diana. That family was the creation of Crown and Church of England, of courtly counsel and BBC documentary. Nobody could identify with such a

Simon Jenkins

# Jammed in a gridlock

Why must my park be a car park?  
asks Peter Nichols

When I was young, ours was the only car in our avenue. Not for long, though. My father thought this looked like showing off and put his Morris Cowley in the garage before too many neighbours spotted it.

This was still the case until the 1950s. And even then no one sensed the danger ahead. There seemed no reason to remind drivers that streets weren't garages but thoroughfares. Every city in the advanced world has made the same mistake. China is averse to graduate from the bicycle and share our problem of finding room for several hundred million cars.

The broad avenues of London's Belsize Park, where I live, must have been in their day an efficient, elegant means of serving the large villas. Now every street is a day-and-night double row of vehicles and the gaps between them narrow with every advance in power steering. It is already no easy task for a pedestrian to leave the pavement. When lateral steering becomes standard, any small opening that remains will be finally closed. Even bus stops become parking places and buses have to bar the road while their passengers squeeze on and off.

But where to put all the cars? This question has defeated the Western world. A different view must be heard and headed before our cities are stifled by steel, glass and rubber; by the noise of radios and horns; the wailing and whooping of alarms; the squelch and moan of cars and abuse from driven drivers who, like Gadsden swine, rush into and out of city centres that are no larger than market towns.

The car itself is not the culprit, any more than is the gun which goes off unaided. But both devices bring out the worst in people. "We and our metropolises cannot cope. No city built for the carriage can give the car free rein. To earn the privilege of living in the city centres, sacrifices must be made. One can get about without private wheels. Of course, all bus, train and Tube services should be better — and free. If it can be done for the old and very young, why not for everyone? Taxis are also part of the public system. They are cars which are not garaged on the streets for most of the time. Their hire should be cheapish available, not run for high profit by warring cartels."

Partly, conferences scarcely mentioned traffic, nor ever will, as a proper solution would take longer than any government expects to last. And while MPs have special parking facilities, no change would ever be on the agenda. The quickest way to get proper public transport is to take away parliamentary parking. But who would have to vote for that? MPs are not noted for altruism.

Yet in better moments their fore-runners outlawed slavery and abolished hanging. The smokeless zone is a fact. Fish are returning to the Thames. I don't despair. Limited parking will come — indeed has come north and south of Belsize Car Park. The streets will be reclaimed and cleaned for the first time in decades. The flat-earthers may postpone it, so as to avoid paying for the privilege of throttling the public streets with their private hobbies, but just as traders are converted to pedestrian streets when they count their takings, so the majority will one day become car-free. Only then will they finally realise that what they had before was an auto da fé.

The author is a playwright who lives in Belsize Park.

# Salsa sauce

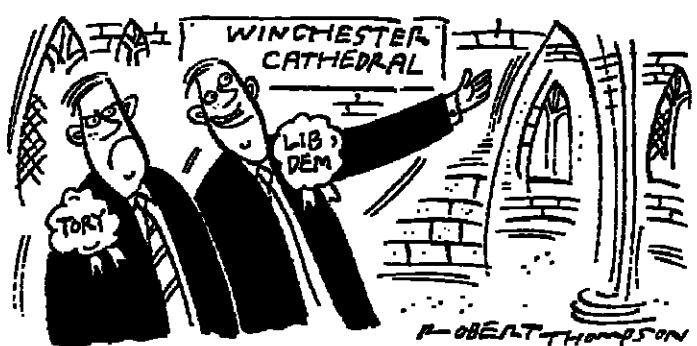
DO NOT be alarmed if you catch a former Tory MP swaying rhythmically to a seductive Latin beat in the capital shortly: Phillip Oppenheim, the former Treasury Minister, rich kid and heart-throb, is to set up a Cuban restaurant and cocktail bar. The truncation of his political career in May has allowed him to realise his long-cherished dream of becoming a restaurateur. His inspiration? A fascination with Fidel Castro, Cuba's communist dictator. Waterloo has been deemed the hippest locale for Cubana, which should pour its first daiquiri early next year.

"I've spent a long time in communist countries and have a keen interest," he said before jetting off to Cuba on a "fact-finding" mission. The man once tipped for the Tory leadership promises that Cubana's decor will boast a "strong communist influence". So will the walls be draped with images of Castro? "That would be too tacky even for a former Tory minister. Nor do I want to become a launchpad for a new Bay of Pigs." A



Oppenheim and Castro

former Mosimann's manageress will vet the food. And as Phillip was the most eligible bachelor on the Tory benches, it should attract Latino lovelies. So stand by for a reds-in-the-bed scandal.



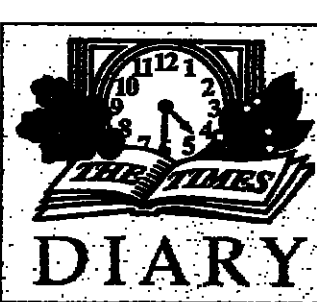
"Simply magnificent proportions!"

THE MONARCHY retains little mystique for Frances Richards, suppliers of the six coaches used to bus royals around: "We put them in our standard buses. We didn't think they'd need loos or on-board service." The royal households were colour-coded. "We put the British in a purple bus and gave them Trevor Hopkins as a driver. Now Trevor has taken tour groups to Edinburgh, so he didn't need training. We gave him a map and told him to get on with it."

## Fizz on hold

AFTER a gloomy sojourn in a Lancashire jail, the tycoon Owen Oyston could soon be dancing on the tables at Springfellow's. He has served 18 months of a six-year sentence for rape and indecent assault, and his case comes to the Court of Appeal on Monday. Oyston's supporters are confident that fresh evidence will lead to their man's release. "There could be quite a celebration," says one rather mischievous friend. "The champagne and dancing girls are on their way." Oyston has more mate-

OLD TIMES "My purpose is to ensure that the result properly reflects the intentions of voters." Gerry Malone (May 17) explaining why he was mounting a High Court challenge to force a new vote in Winchester. He has handed the Liberal Democrats their safest seat in Parliament.



JASPER GERARD

rial concerns. "He can't wait to see what the people running his affairs have been doing in his absence."

NEVER has an unlaund caused such offence. Lembit Opik, the Estonian Liberal MP, is cross because Hansard fails to use two



Owen Oyston and showgirl

dots to decorate his surname. "I showed them how to do it," says Opik, believed to be the first unlaund MP. "I had to point out the key on their typewriters." Hansard has now conceded. "We don't usually do things like this," says a keyboard operative there, "but he kept banging on about it."

## Fear factor

TEARS for Gerry Malone fell from normally dry eyes — belonging to hacks on *The Scotsman*. They fear that the failed, but tough, Tory will be offered the newspaper's editorship by his former flatmate and fellow Scot Andrew Neil, top dog there. Malone worked for Neil during his reign at *The Sunday Times*. Says one: "If he comes up here, I'm moving to Winchester."

WE were too strict in *Diary Towers* when we ticked off Lord Sarnam for slipping away early from a debate. Lady Sarnam was ill and Lord S wanted to be by her side, naturally. If I had known, I would have directed my fire at less dedicated statesmen. Sorry.

NEW TIMES The City has fallen to New Labour. Former advisers to Labour ministers, now making money there, have set up a dining club to celebrate their success. Fifteen members will dine at Ladbroke, where the guest of honour will be a "senior figure from No 10."



Keeping Cherie company: Peter O'Toole

PARTY TIME THE affections of Cherie Blair have been won by that celebrated old liverspot, Peter O'Toole. Tuesday night found them both in Leicester Square at the premiere of *Fairytale — the True Story*, a gushing flick in which the ailing O'Toole took a supporting role.

"They got on so well at the drinks party before the screening," purrs a fellow seat-filler. "Cherie seemed rather impressed." So impressed, according to one suggestion, that she later accompanied the actor to the fashionable watering-hole

Soho House. Curiously, the stuffed shirts in the film's production office seemed keen to dispel the rumours. "She had her children with her and took them off after the show."

Meanwhile the Arts Minister, Mark Fisher, has been making himself rather unpopular at the theatre. Last week found him reclining in smart seats, appraising *Shared Experience*. There was a small hitch. He had not booked them. Enter Simon Gurnell, a reliable cog in the British Council, who promptly told him to take his ministerial frame elsewhere.



RDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

**Jammed**  
in a  
gridlock  
Why must my Park  
be a car park?  
asks Peter Nichols

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

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## NEW MONARCHY

A good week for the Queen, her Prime Minister and the Crown

Rarely in recent years has the Queen looked as relaxed, as happy or as friendly as during this past week. Her mood cannot be put down simply to anniversary delight or the pleasure of seeing Windsor Castle restored. Having downgraded her golden wedding celebrations for fear of public disapproval, she instead found a warmth of feeling which stretched from the well-wishers lining Whitehall to the hardened and sceptical press.

Why has the mood changed so dramatically in just 12 weeks since Princess Diana's death? The answer is that a vicious circle has turned virtuous. Before, the Queen's remoteness and formality aroused public hostility, which in turn must have reinforced her grim demeanour. But since her live broadcast to the nation the day before Diana's funeral, when she let the mask slip a little and acknowledged the need for the monarchy to learn lessons, the Queen has found that a little humanity reaps rich rewards.

Watching her in Whitehall with a helium balloon emblazoned "Happy Anniversary", only the coldest-hearted could have failed to smile. The new informality has not dented her dignity, as her advisers might have feared. Rather it has set in motion what a psychologist would call positive reinforcement: the more relaxed and friendly she appears, the more warmly the public responds, and that can only have the effect of making her happier still.

One of the architects of this new style is Tony Blair. A man who in younger days might have been indifferent to the monarchy has come to appreciate its merits. His speech at Thursday's "people's banquet" was sincere in its praise. The language of his body as well as his words themselves spoke of a relationship that is warm on both sides.

No Prime Minister would want to see the

monarchy collapse on his watch. Nor would most Prime Ministers be happy with the alternative, an elected President who might be tempted to meddle in politics. But we trust that Mr Blair is acting not out of expediency alone. Through his weekly audiences, his dealings with the Queen after Diana died, and the deepening of his appreciation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, he seems genuinely to hold the Queen in high regard.

The man with a well-developed sense of the need for popular support has much to offer a monarch who is insulated from democracy by virtue of her position. She needs his advice. For, as the Queen acknowledged on Thursday, while the monarchy may not be tested regularly at the ballot box, it will cease to exist if the people decide that it has outlived its usefulness. No less than Mr Blair must she be responsive to public opinion, albeit in a measured way.

The hand of Labour could clearly be discerned in the seating plan of the banquet. The Queen shared her top table not with aristocrats and ambassadors, but with a community policeman, a 25-year-old Guide leader and an assembly line worker at Nissan. Such placement serves two purposes: it looks good and it helps to keep the monarch close to popular concerns.

The reason that the monarchy has survived is that it has learnt to adapt with the times. Today's monarch, who had seemed to be stuck in the rigid 1950s, is only continuing the modernising tradition. She is also following her forebears in acting on the advice of her Prime Minister. At this rate, Mr Blair might do for Elizabeth what Disraeli did for Victoria: to coax the monarch back to public affection and entrench this great institution for another reign.

## OLD FACES

By-elections show the Tories must break from their past

Thursday was, as Michael Portillo once put it, "a truly terrible night for the Conservatives". Mr Portillo's words, uttered on the evening of May 1, remain apposite despite the peculiar circumstances of the Winchester and Beckenham results. Both were, in their different ways, postscripts to the general election rather than new chapters in British politics.

The circumstances of Mrs Merchant's resignation in Beckenham were a coda to the comic opera of sleaze which ran throughout the Tories' election campaign. Gerry Malone's forlorn attempt to win back Winchester was seen as sour grapes by his former constituents whose muted May Warewell was transformed into a fortissimo "good riddance". Taken together they underline the disdain which the Conservatives earned during their final years in office and emphasise painfully the formidable task William Hague faces in overcoming his party's past record.

Coming after the Government's most uncomfortable fortnight in office, when the Prime Minister's laurels began for the first time to look bedraggled, the scale of the Tory reverse was all the more striking. In Beckenham the Tories had, in Jacqui Lait, a personable and talented candidate whose presence will bolster the tiny contingent of able women on their benches. But she still saw her majority whittled almost to nothing. Her Labour opponent joins an elite band of government candidates in by-elections who saw their vote rise. Ms Lait undoubtedly suffered at the hands of voters irritated by the deceptions of her predecessor and further irked by having to turn out again so soon after the general election as a consequence of his folly.

The annoyance of the Beckenham elec-

torate was, however, dwarfed by the anger of Winchester voters who were clearly piqued at having to remind Mr Malone that a majority of them had sent his Government packing in May. Both Mr Malone and Ms Lait may have suffered particularly as members of the Major Government that was so decisively rejected in the spring. The contrast with the earlier Uxbridge by-election, where a new, local candidate, unsullied by office, succeeded in increasing the Tory majority, will not be lost on the Conservative leadership. If Mr Hague is forced to field the same old faces, he may expect from the electorate the same old cry.

The Tory leadership should take Thursday's results not as a rejection of their programme of reform but rather as an encouragement to be more radical. The memories of an unhappy period in office can be effaced only by a comprehensive renewal of policy and personalities. For that reason, the withdrawal of the whip from Peter Temple-Morris is not only understandable but welcome. After the pointless equivocation of the Major years, Mr Hague should take the shortest way with dissenters. Mr Temple-Morris has been hawking what passes for his conscience around the television studios for too long. His flirtation with Labour was ended only because he believed he could better sabotage Mr Hague by staying inside the tent. Mr Hague paid that judgment the only possible compliment by kicking him out.

There is much more for the Tory leader to do: in democratising his party, being more open about funding, more modern in his presentation and closer to public sentiment in his policy. Winchester and Beckenham are melancholy warnings of the dangers of sticking to the past.

## THE SCHOOL RUN

Glimmers of hope for mornings without pollution and stress

One of the surprises of old newsreel films is the sight of thousands of schoolchildren walking to school each morning. The camera rarely lingers on them: there was nothing unusual in youngsters, not yet in their teens, whistling down urban streets largely free of traffic. How different would be such a film today. There would be few children on the streets, and fewer still walking unaccompanied below the age of 11. Virtually no pupils would be found on bicycles. And around the gates of each school there would be a vast traffic jam of crawling, honking cars, pushing aggressively into the brief space by the kerb to let out one, or at most two, children. The road behind them would be blocked. As every commuter knows, daily life in the suburbs begins with road rage and delay.

For some schools, the morning jams have become a factor so limiting that they cannot increase their intake. Two things in particular have exacerbated the problem. The first is the expansion, under Conservative Governments and now also under Labour, of parental choice. The second is the perception that walking to school is no longer safe.

With schools competing for the best pupils, parents are encouraged to select those that offer the best above those that are nearest — even if this means a daily trek across town. There may, or may not, be a bus route; increasingly, pupils are expected to make their own way to school, relying on private transport. Schools appear indifferent to the problems of parking, traffic control and pollution. But what they, and parents,

now believe is that walking to school, even if possible, is unwise. Intense focus on the rare instances of children molested or abducted suggests that predators await on every corner — though Home Office statistics show such crimes are no more common now than they were a generation ago. Undeniably, however, traffic is now so heavy, polluting and fast that the risk of accidents is greater than ever before.

Some years ago the Government inaugurated a Safe Routes to School campaign, encouraging local councils to police and clear the paths, pavements and crossings used by children. This has had a limited success; but it applies only at limited hours. Those remaining at school for hobbies or sports must still rely on parental transport. And increasingly, individual freedom is limited by lack of mobility. Young people are isolated at home, safe but lonely.

Both the Policy Studies Institute and the Audit Commission have highlighted the problem. Encouragingly, parents and some schools are now volunteering time and money to cut the morning crush. Chartering minibuses, policing footpaths, creating temporary one-way systems and abandoning four-wheel-drive vehicles for smaller cars, they are cutting pollution, congestion and inconvenience.

Private schools are the pioneers — not always with the help of councils that look on richer pupils with a jaundiced eye. But state schools too must tackle the traffic. Safety at school is paramount. But so is getting there safely, healthily and on time.

## Britain's 'onerous' EMU obligations

From Mr Rodney E. B. Atkinson

Sir, In your issue of November 17 Charles Bremner reported from Brussels that German and French politicians are resisting British membership of the inner "Euro council" on the grounds that, as a Dutch official said, "If you want to be at the table, join the euro club".

This might be a fair proposition if those countries which do not adopt the euro were released from all its concomitant obligations.

However, those who do not join (called "pre-ins") are obliged to submit to the rule of the Council of Ministers, while the European central bank is able to issue regulations "binding in their entirety and directly applicable to all member states".

Under the Maastricht treaty those countries which do not join must "transfer foreign reserve assets and contribute to reserves on the same basis as the national bank of a member state" which has adopted the euro. Furthermore, non-joining countries must co-ordinate economic policy with the Council of Ministers and "further the objectives of the Community". With such detailed and onerous obligations on those EU members outside the euro club it is extraordinary that anyone could suggest that they had not justified their place "at the table" of the euro governing council.

Yours etc,  
RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON,  
Alderley, Meadowfield Road,  
Stockfield, Northumberland,  
November 18.

From Mrs Gillian Bardine

Sir, There really are "none so blind as those who won't see". On November 19, as the EU 15 gathered for their jobs summit in Luxembourg (reports, November 20 and 21), figures were released on French TV which show that not only unemployment but also poverty has increased in Europe since 1981.

To rigid and archaic social and fiscal structures have been added dangerous deflationary tendencies caused by straining after the convergence criteria.

There is no attempt to hide the damning figures. But so great is the belief that EMU is the cure rather than the cause that few seem to question these ominous facts, to which must be added the rider that EMU needs not only to be attained but sustained.

Yours sincerely,  
GILLIAN BARDINET  
(President, British Conservative Association in France),  
21 Rue Saint-Honore,  
78000 Versailles,  
November 21.

From Mr Richard Heller

Sir, The Prime Minister offered a vision in your columns today (article, "My plans to clean up party politics") of "a completely new world of electoral finance". However, he was silent about the funding of the coming referendum on European economic and monetary union and the extinction of the pound.

In the 1975 referendum on EEC membership the Yes campaign outspent the No campaign by a factor of 11 to 1, without counting the official government propaganda in support of a Yes vote.

Sir Patrick Neill's committee should consider whether it would be right to allow this imbalance to be repeated in the EMU referendum. Like its predecessor, its result will be more important than that of any general election — and a Yes vote would be irreversible. The Prime Minister, and Sir Patrick, should recognise that there is an even greater need for fairness and openness in referendum campaign spending than in election finance.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD HELLER,  
Oval Publishing,  
30 Cressdon Road, SW9,  
November 17.

## Reluctant peer

From Mr Denis Watkins

Sir, Roy Hattersley (report, November 18), who wants the House of Lords abolished, said that it would take him a "great effort of will to discuss style and titles with somebody called Garter King of Arms" and that "I just cannot imagine myself dressed in ermine robes". Despite this he has participated in arrangements to be gazetted as Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook. This kind of behaviour is usually described as having your cake and eating it, although many may see it as good, old-fashioned humbug.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS WATKINS,  
Ty Newydd, Velindre,  
Crymch, Pembrokeshire,  
November 18.

## Blood on the Nile

From Mr N. G. Guntton

Sir, I disagree strongly with your leading article today on the massacre at Luxor. Terrorism does not "feed on frustration and repression"; it feeds on apology and weakness of response.

Yours faithfully,  
N. G. GUNTTON,  
65 Bolton Avenue,  
Richmond, North Yorkshire,  
November 18.

## League tables of the best and the rest

From the Headmaster of Stowe School

Sir, Our school is at the "wrong end" of the exam result league tables (supplement and leading article, November 18) precisely because it aims to provide the best education for bright children. In a modern democratic society the only schools that can claim to be serving our children properly are those that can show, by example, the best of them how to value the rest of them; but for a school to include "the rest" is a recipe for its exclusion from the top division.

Streaming within a school can work well: two boys in different maths sets can stay in the same house, the same rugby team, the same debating society. But streaming between schools divorces them completely and forever. They will grow up in ignorance of each other: neither is well served by this.

Here at Stowe, Tom and Ed were a good partnership. Tom was headed for four good A-level grades in things mathematical; he was efficient and intelligent and invented administrative systems that worked. Ed inspired warmth, was good at rugby, knew the first name of everyone in the school, could persuade people to give Tom's systems a try, and was hoping by some miracle, and very hard work, to be able to pull off a couple of A-level pass grades.

They recognised each other's strengths, and learned to complement each other to get things done. They learned important lessons by being and working together, if not in the same sets or subjects.

Will the Toms keep coming to a school whose exam rankings have been so badly damaged by the Eds? Where else except at school will they learn each other's worth?

Believing passionately that the best and the rest should be educated together, we can live with a poor placing in the league tables: it hurts, but it is the price we must pay to do what we believe. However, unless it is properly understood why we are where we are, the parents of bright children will be wrongly deterred from sending them to us. Then, no matter what price we pay, we will be prevented from doing what we

## Early retirement

From the National Officer of Unison

Sir, The picture you paint of early retirement in local government (reports and leading article, November 13) is deeply offensive to council workers forced out of their jobs through redundancy.

The endless cuts and reorganisations in local government have meant that councils have asked for "volunteers" for early retirement. Far from "allowing workers to retire early" many have reluctantly accepted this option feeling that they had a gun at their heads — either go voluntarily or be sacked with a much worse pay off. The fact is that local government workers have paid into their pension schemes for many years to provide for their retirement and are entitled to a decent pension.

The scandal is that in 1989 the Gov-

ernment told councils to cut their contributions to pension funds in an effort to keep poll-tax levels down. Allowing councils to divert money away from pension funds exacerbated the pension crisis we see today.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH SONNET  
(Head of local government),  
Unison,  
1 Mabledon Place, WC1,  
November 13.

From the Chair of the Local Government Association

Sir, Your suggestion that the £5.7 billion cost to local authorities of early retirement over five years could be used to improve schools and roads, is misleading. The money is not available for spending on capital investment.

It is unreasonable to imply that local authorities choose to retire people early on dubious redundancy

grounds rather than invest in services which everyone agrees are grossly underfunded. The fact is that early retirement has been used as one way of cutting expenditure in order to prevent deeper cuts to direct services. The genuine savings on long-term staffing costs have typically been recycled into new jobs, mostly in education and social services.

The Audit Commission acknowledges that many local authorities are already following the recommendations made in its report. Local government itself urged a more rigorous approach six months ago, following advice from the United Kingdom Steering Committee on local government pensions.

Yours sincerely,  
JEREMY BEECHAM, Chair,  
Local Government Association,  
26 Chapter Street, SW1,  
November 13.

grounds rather than invest in services which everyone agrees are grossly underfunded. The fact is that early retirement has been used as one way of cutting expenditure in order to prevent deeper cuts to direct services. The genuine savings on long-term staffing costs have typically been recycled into new jobs, mostly in education and social services.

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Yours sincerely,  
JEREMY BEECHAM, Chair,  
Local Government Association,  
26 Chapter Street, SW1,  
November 13.

their line on a single currency in the belief that by clinging to the coat tails of Eurosceptic public opinion they will win their way back.

In the light of the election results from Winchester and Beckenham it is clear there is no public support for this anti-Europe stance and a further change of direction is needed if the party is ever to regain the support of the country.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TAYLOR,  
20 Chesport Drive, Bletchley,  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.  
dtaylor65@aol.com  
November 21.

From Mrs Pamela Morgan

Sir, As a disillusioned Tory, I suggest that the Conservative Party changes its candidate for Winchester and its party leader; then it might stand a chance of winning back Winchester and the rest of the country at the next election.

Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA MORGAN,  
Rothemurchus, St Cross Hill,  
Winchester, Hampshire,  
November 21.

used a car.

Seven years ago (March 13, 1990), in a letter which you published from me on the same subject, I offered to provide your readers with a free leaflet describing 75 leisure cycle routes between railway stations (now 150 routes, covering 7,000 miles; over 100 readers wrote to me in response. Clearly there is some interest.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD HUTCHINS,  
171 High Street,  
Clapham, Bedford,  
November 20.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Essential mystery of the monarchy

From the Reverend Dr Ian Bradley

Sir, In all this talk of a Royal Family more in touch with public opinion (article and reports, November 21) we are in danger of missing the essential nature and purpose of monarchy.

The monarchy is not a democratic institution, still less the creature of popular opinion, but rather a divinely instituted symbol and mystery. At their coronations, our kings and queens are anointed in a ritual which has its origins in Old Testament times and underlines the spiritual nature of their calling. They are thereafter accountable first and foremost to God and not to a fickle populace so easily manipulated and swayed by the mass media. Their role may not be to lead public opinion, though in deep and subtle ways they can both express the mood of the nation and also exert a powerful example, but most certainly not are they there to pander to it.

We need to think much more about the religious basis of monarchy and the exercise of its spiritual function. In the case of our present Queen, this has been expressed in a sacrificial commitment to duty and public service and a sure and steadfast Christian faith fortified and nourished through regular churchgoing. In the case of her eldest son, who I fervently hope will be our next King, it may well take a different form, in keeping with his declared desire to be a defender of faith and his deep sensitivity to spiritual issues.

The Royal Family were clearly engaged in and deeply moved by Thursday morning's service at Westminster Abbey. Many of the courtiers and commoners attending it, by contrast, were caught by the television cameras chattering, giggling or maintaining a sullen silence through the great hymns of the Christian faith.

They might care to reflect on the message of those familiar words which rang through the Abbey as the Queen and Prince Philip left. God will save the Queen, not public opinion and certainly not the media.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN BRADLEY,  
7 Stratkinness High Road,  
St Andrews, Fife,  
November 21.

grounds rather than invest in services which everyone agrees are grossly underfunded. The fact is that early retirement has been used as one way of cutting expenditure in order to prevent deeper cuts to direct services. The genuine savings on long-term staffing costs have typically been recycled into new jobs, mostly in education and social services.

The Audit Commission acknowledges that many local authorities are already following the recommendations made in its report. Local government itself urged a more rigorous approach six months ago, following advice from the United Kingdom Steering Committee on local government pensions.

Yours sincerely,  
JEREMY BEECHAM, Chair,  
Local Government Association,  
26 Chapter Street, SW1,  
November 13.

## Rude, but not very

From Mr Stuart Kershaw

Sir, Laurence Lipman is upset at a Victor Lewis-Smith (Diary, November 19) because he called Vanessa Feltz a Yenta. Laurence need not worry.

My uncle, a Yiddishophone of great sensitivity, habitually refers to his beloved wife, after 50 years plus of happy marriage, as the Yenta. It means "her in-laws". Gossipy possibly. Cunning never.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART KERSHAW,  
9 Tretawn Park,  
Mill Hill, NW7,  
kershaw@winkworth\_hendon.demon.co.uk  
November 19.

## In a flat spin

From Dr David B. Cook

Sir, Along with a number of other gifted and hard-working people, my wife has a PhD, which involved the study of the magnetism due to the spin of electrons and nuclei.

Both of us find the current campaign of vilification aimed at spin-doctors thoroughly offensive.

Yours sincerely,  
D. B. COOK,  
Department of Chemistry,  
University of Sheffield,  
Sheffield S3 7HF,  
d.b.cook@sheffield.ac.uk  
November 20.

## Holiday reading

From Mr Nicholas Russell

Sir, I see that the summer holiday reading scheme was a success (report, November 20). May I recommend that some consideration should be given to running a scheme to teach reading in term time?

Yours,  
NICHOLAS RUSSELL,  
37 School Lane,  
Haslingfield, Cambridge.  
nicholas@larmprinters.bdx.co.uk  
November 20.











50% من الارباح

174 BOY 30

# Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
502	40.75	40.50	Adnig	40.62	+0.25	+0.6	11.1
503	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
504	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
505	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
506	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
507	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
508	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
509	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1
510	35.00	34.75	Adnig	34.87	+0.25	+0.7	11.1

## BANKS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
1001	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1002	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1003	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1004	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1005	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1006	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1007	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1008	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1009	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1
1010	100.00	99.50	Bank of America	99.75	+0.50	+0.5	11.1

## BREWERY, PUBS & REST

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
200	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
201	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
202	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
203	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
204	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
205	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
206	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
207	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
208	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
209	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
300	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
301	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
302	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
303	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
304	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
305	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
306	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
307	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
308	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
309	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## BUILDING MATERIALS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
400	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
401	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
402	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
403	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
404	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
405	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
406	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
407	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
408	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
409	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## CHEMICALS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
500	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
501	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
502	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
503	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
504	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
505	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
506	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
507	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
508	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
509	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## DISTRIBUTORS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
600	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
601	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
602	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
603	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
604	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
605	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
606	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
607	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
608	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
609	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
700	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
701	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
702	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
703	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
704	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
705	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
706	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
707	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
708	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
709	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
800	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
801	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
802	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
803	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
804	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
805	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
806	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
807	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
808	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
809	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## HEALTHCARE

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
900	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
901	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
902	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
903	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
904	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
905	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
906	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
907	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
908	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
909	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
1000	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1001	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1002	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1003	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1004	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1005	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1006	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1007	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1008	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1009	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## INSURANCE

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
1100	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1101	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1102	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1103	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1104	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1105	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1106	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1107	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1108	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1109	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
1200	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1201	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1202	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1203	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1204	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1205	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1206	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1207	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1208	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1209	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1

## LEISURE & HOTELS

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
1300	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1301	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1302	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1303	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1304	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1305	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1306	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1307	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11.1
1308	10.00	9.75	Beck's	9.87	+0.25	+2.5	11



**NEW BOY 30**  
Ken Clarke plc  
strides on to  
business stage

# BUSINESS

WEEKEND  
**MONEY**  
SECTION 2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

## Alert hits Johnson Fry shares

By RICHARD MILES

**SHARES** in Johnson Fry Holdings, the fund manager, dived by 27 per cent yesterday after the company warned investors to expect a substantial loss for 1997.

Rebecca Thomas, managing director, said the loss before exceptional items would be £2 million after the closure of the financial products division and ten redundancies.

But Ms Thomas, appointed in September, said a large exceptional gain of £3.9 million from the sale of its property division earlier in the year would ensure the firm "published a profit for the year".

In the absence of "unforeseen circumstances", Johnson Fry said it would pay an unchanged final dividend of 2p on reporting its year-end results in late March. The shares closed 31.5p lower at 85p yesterday.

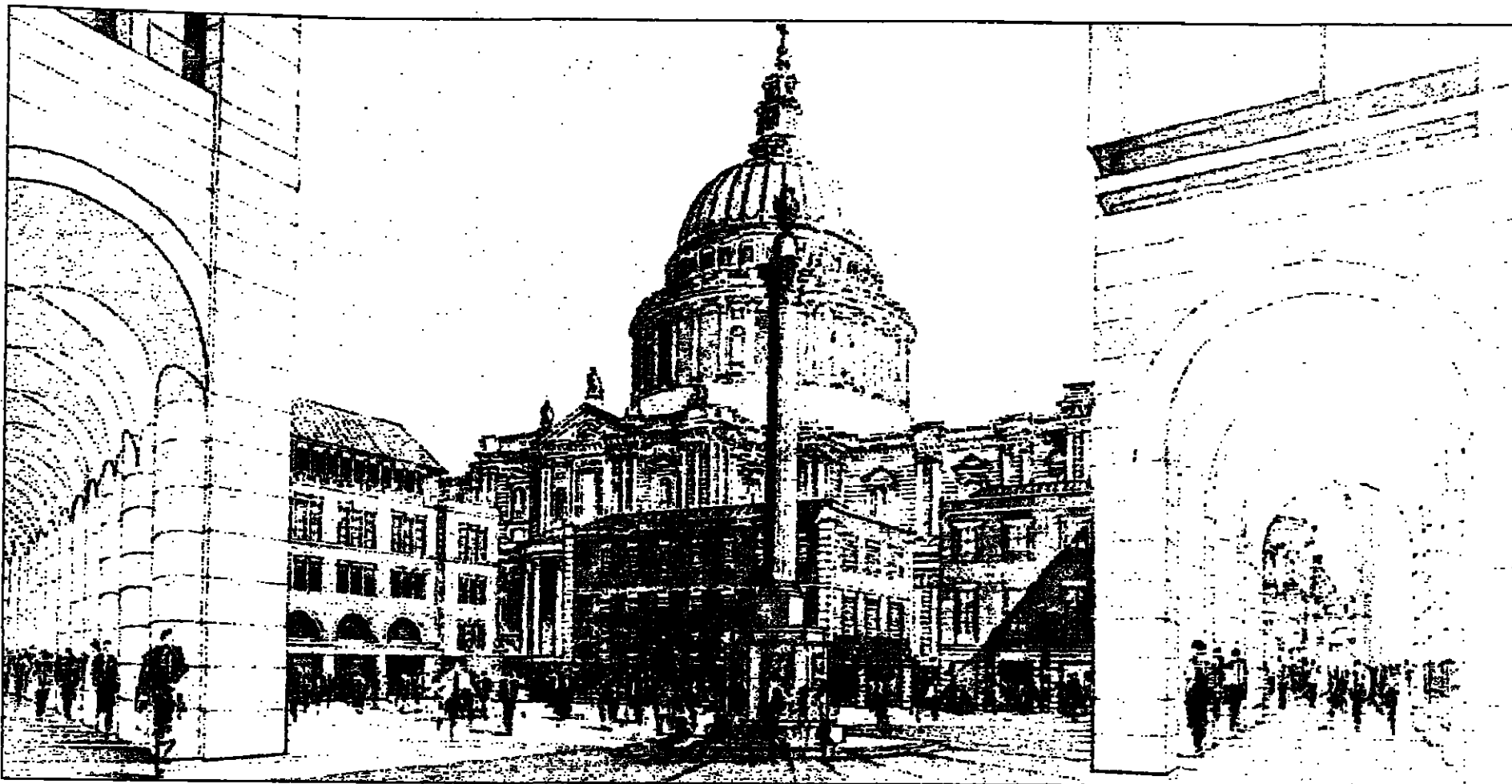
Since joining the company 18 months ago, Ms Thomas has sought to turn Johnson Fry from an advisory and trading business into a fund manager focused on the retail investor. In that time, funds under management have almost trebled from £330 million to £919 million.

As part of the conversion to fund manager, the insurance and independent financial advice businesses were sold off in mid-1996, followed by the disposal of Johnson Fry Housing, its property arm, early this year.

"It is not pleasant to have to do this sort of thing, but now is the time to do it," said Ms Thomas. "I have to deal with the historic business of old Johnson Fry. The financial products division was highly geared to volumes of new sales."

Johnson Fry, 35 per cent owned by directors and the 150 staff, insisted yesterday that it was determined to remain independent, in spite of reports last month that it was up for sale.

Tempus, page 31



The perspective from the southeast, as envisaged by architects, looking across Paternoster Square towards the Wren Chapter House with St Paul's Cathedral in the background

## Liberty Life sights set on FTSE listing

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

**LIBERTY LIFE** Association may be ready to abandon South Africa in favour of a primary shareholding in London and membership of the FTSE 100 share index.

The Johannesburg-listed company chaired by Donald Gordon, the insurance magnate, yesterday announced a radical restructuring aimed at creating an international financial services company.

Mr Gordon, 58, who with Sir Mark Weinberg founded Abbey Life in 1962, said that he believed the UK and America were good bases from which to turn Liberty Life into an international financial services company. At the end of June the group had total shareholders' funds of more than £1.5 billion and total assets of £4.4 billion. It controls Capital Shopping Centres, owner of the Thurrock and Lakeside retail complexes.

Mr Gordon said he was looking for acquisitions in the

US and had considered bidding for Mercury Asset Management in the UK, now subject to an agreed £3.1 billion offer from Merrill Lynch. "MAM would have been good for us but Merrill Lynch could afford to pay over the odds for it."

He emphasised that the restructuring proposals were still being considered and a formal decision had yet to be reached. He said that life companies in the UK were too expensive because the UK was currently "favourable of the month".

Analysts said Liberty Life would be taken more seriously as a global company if it relocated to the UK. Mr Gordon said that he had no intention of leaving South Africa to live permanently in this country.

He described the South African life assurance market as "very competitive" and added: "The cost ratios there

are much lower than in the UK and US."

The proposed restructuring, announced yesterday, would simplify the group's complicated management and ownership structure, he said. There are a number of part-owned subsidiary businesses that needed streamlining.

A year ago Mr Gordon announced ambitious plans to compete with the biggest names in the pensions industry by creating a major new life insurance company. In a joint venture with the British Telecom Pension Scheme, Liberty was able to set up Hermes Liberty International Pensions, which specialises in group personal pensions.

Mr Gordon said expanding the company to make it an international player was his greatest ambition. "I would dearly love to achieve that before I stop working," he said. "I am not doing it for the money any more, I am doing it

for fun. It is great fun negotiating deals when you are not being forced into doing them."

Mr Gordon described his role as "that of an elder statesman and strategic planner". His 40 years' experience in life insurance have made him an almost legendary figure in the industry. The restructuring is intended to cut out management layers and reduce potential conflicts of interest between controlling and minority shareholders, and give Liberty Life greater access to capital markets.

The plans for Liberty Life include increasing the company's involvement in the Black Economic Empowerment project, a South African scheme set up to help companies run by black workers. Liberty Life said that the plans would need regulatory approval and their success would depend on the state of equity and financial markets in the future.

## Mitsubishi has new designs on Paternoster

By CARL MORTISHED

A JAPANESE property developer stepped gingerly into a British minefield yesterday with new proposals for the redevelopment of Paternoster Square, the ugly 1960s office development adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral.

Mitsubishi Estate Company is hoping that its masterplan will receive the green light from planners at the Corporation of London, permitting the demolition of the site and the erection of six new buildings designed by different architects, with a value on completion of about £400 million.

The scheme, designed by Sir William Whitfield, treads a narrow path, seeking to satisfy modernists and appease traditionalists, while making money for the developers. Chief among the traditionalists is the Prince of Wales, who famously condemned an earlier modernist redevelopment plan as "deeply depressing". A later neo-classical scheme favoured by the Prince proved to be financially unworkable.

Sir William's masterplan envisages the demolition of the raised piazza and walkways, lowering the site to ground level, thereby improving both views of the cathedral and pedestrian access. Sir William said that the failure of William Holford's 1960s development was the attempt to impose a single architectural concept on a sensitive site, ignoring the needs of users. By using different architects, the scheme more reflects the higgledy-piggledy character of the City before the arrival of 1960s brutalism.

The new development will comprise 750,000 sq ft of offices. The square will be flanked with shops, while vehicle access is restricted to an underground gyratory that gave Sir William the inspiration for his masterstroke: in the middle he proposes a replica of an Inigo Jones Corinthian column that once graced the portico of St Paul's. Its plinth conceals a ventilation shaft.

Commentary, page 29

## BUSINESS TODAY

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

FTSE 100	4888.8	(+77.4)
Yield	3.27%	
FTSE All share	2344.82	(+25.29)
Nikkei	16721.88	(+413.09)
Dow Jones	7858.84	(+32.33)*
S&P Composite	962.04	(+3.06)*

**US RATE**

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
Yield	6.07%	(6.06%)

**LONDON MONEY**

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	118 1/4%	(118 1/4%)

**STERLING**

New York	1.6895	(1.6885)
London	1.6898	(1.6895)
DM	2.9537	(2.9532)
FR	6.5445	(6.5430)
SP	1.4178	(1.4115)
Yen	125.81	(125.87)
S Index	106.3	(106.3)

**US\$ DOLLAR**

London	1.7455	(1.7402)
DM	2.9445	(2.9430)
SP	1.4178	(1.4115)
Yen	125.81	(125.87)
S Index	106.3	(106.3)

**TOKYO**

Close	125.88	
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**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$18.90	(\$18.85)
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**GOLD**

London close	\$304.95	(\$303.55)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Primark eyes Dow Jones unit

By RAYMOND SNOODY  
MEDIA EDITOR

**PRIMARK**, the information group that owns Datastream/ICV, has emerged as a potential bidder for the troubled Dow Jones Markets, the financial information division of Dow Jones.

The business, which is shortly expected to be formally offered for sale, could be worth about \$500 million (£294 million).

Joe Kasputys, Primark chairman, said yesterday he would have a "very serious look" at Dow Jones Markets. Primark, whose main strength is in information on equities, would be interested because it would extend its reach, particularly into the foreign exchange markets.

Other potential purchasers could include Bloomberg and Reuters.

## Hurn ready to join GEC as chairman

By PAUL DURMAN

**SIR Roger Hurn**, tipped to succeed Lord Prior as chairman of GEC next year, may be confirmed in the job on Tuesday.

Sir Roger, 59, is expected to make his plans known at the annual meeting of Smiths Industries, the engineering group of which he has been chairman since 1991, having originally joined the group in 1958.

Although he has increasingly taken a diminished role at Smiths since last year's appointment of Keith Butler-Wheelhouse as chief executive, Sir Roger accepts he could not remain chairman and take on the top job at GEC. Both groups have substantial businesses supplying electronic systems to defence and aerospace customers.

Lord Prior, a Cabinet minister in the Thatcher Government, is due to retire in March. Turning round GEC after years of underperformance is regarded as one of the toughest jobs in British industry.

Sir Roger has little to prove at Smiths, with arguably the best long-term record in the UK engineering sector. Pre-tax profits have grown from £25 million to £192 million since he took over as managing director in 1978. The value of the company's shares has multiplied almost 20 times.

Tempus, page 31

## Coal industry forecasts hit RJB price

**SHARES** in RJB Mining lost 5 per cent of their value with more than 1.4 million changing hands after *The Times* disclosed gloomy government forecasts for the future of coal (Christine Buckley writes).

Next week John Battle, the Energy Minister, will come under increased pressure to make a commitment to the coal industry. Paddy Tipping, Labour MP for Sherwood, will lead a debate urging government action to stop the building of gas-fired power stations and to put money into clean-coal technology.

Mr Battle and Michael Meacher, Environment Minister, will face lobbying from the industry at a meeting next week.

Commentary, page 29

## IBM gives £56m in options to Gerstner

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

**IBM** has given Lou Gerstner, its executive chairman and architect of its recovery, \$95 million (£56 million) of share options to persuade him to stay for five more years. He has already accumulated options worth a similar amount since he arrived in 1993.

The 55-year-old former investment banker will also continue to receive annual performance-related share options.

The company yesterday defended the pay package, which is unusually high even by US standards, by saying that Mr Gerstner had been the main driver behind the revival of the US's seventh-largest company. However, shareholders may have mixed feelings. It had been feared that IBM's share price would fall if Mr Gerstner sold his stake and left the company.

While Mr Gerstner's skills are widely acknowledged, he has recently been criticised for favouring share buybacks over acquisitions. He said yesterday that he was still looking for takeover targets.

IBM announced a large-scale buyback programme during last month's stock market plunge. It was credited with kickstarting a buying spree that led to the biggest daily rise in the Dow Jones industrial average.

Serious Fraud Office, boasted success in six out of six Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) trials, as Abdul Chiragh, a South London accountant, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to five-and-a-half years' imprisonment for fraud and false accounting.

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, castigated the pensions industry over mis-selling.

So who shares the booby prize with Ann Iverson? Enter Nicola "Superwoman" Horlick, who would have done fine had she stuck at her old job... with Mercury Asset Management. That's the City for you.

JON ASHWORTH

## A WEEK IN THE CITY

**I**t was a week in which the City's women high-flyers put on a spectacular show of force — not always by choice. Ann Iverson called it a day at Laura Ashley, while Merrill Lynch made an agreed £3.1 billion takeover bid for Mercury Asset Management (MAM), creating up to 300 instant City millionaires. British Airways unveiled plans for a low-cost, no-frills European airline, flying from Stansted.

Monday saw the FTSE 100 index soar 150 points, fast closing, again, on the mystical 5,000 barrier. Thursday saw Wall Street leap 101. The Government gave the thumbs up to P&O's merger with Stena Line, creating a streamlined cross-Channel ferry operator, while London & Continental Railways confirmed that its high-speed Channel Tunnel link would run all the way to St Pancras station in North London. It had been feared that the line might fizzle out near the M25.

The sudden forced departure of a chief executive is routine enough — except when the company is Laura Ashley, brimming with two Englishness, and the victim is a tough-talking American who has posed in leather for *Vogue*. Ann Iverson, who worked wonders in the early Nineties proved unable to conjure up the same magic with chutz. She leaves under a cloud, but wealthier, collecting £450,000 in compensation on top of £22 million in pay and bonuses.

Another feisty American, Barbara Cassani, was named chief executive-designate of BA's new peanut-class airline, tentatively dubbed Operation Blue Sky. The move throws down the gauntlet to other no-frills operators such as Debonair, Ryanair and EasyJet — and spells good news for consumers. BA also announced a big cut in commission paid to travel agents, triggering an irate response.

Merrill's punt for MAM will add to the considerable fortune of Carol Galley, the most powerful woman in UK fund management, who is on course to collect £10 million from the deal. Similar windfalls await her top colleagues — Hugh Stevenson and Stephen Zimmerman.

Observers were quick to question the fate of other independent City fund managers, chiefly Schroders, Perpetual and M&G.

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, heaped fresh woes on Sears, owner of Selfridge's, by blocking the proposed £365 million sale of Freemans, its mail order business, to Littlewoods. Shares in Safeway suffered their sharpest one-day drop — falling 16 per cent to 330p on Wednesday — on a warning that fierce competition, allied to supply problems, would wipe out profits growth this year.

Ros Wright, director of the

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PRUDENTIAL



## Dialog at 'advanced stage' in talks over £33m sale

By FRASER NELSON

DIALOG Corporation, the online information company formed when Maid and Knight-Ridder Information merged, is poised to sell its document delivery and library divisions for about £33 million.

The company, now the largest player in the computerised market research field, said it was in advanced stages of talks with potential bidders and would complete an auction to the highest in the new year.

Together, Knight-Ridder's library and document delivery divisions have annual sales of \$37 million (£22 million). Analysts said that the level of interest in both divisions should allow Dan Wagner, the chief executive, to sell them for at least 1.5 times sales, or \$55.5 million (£33 million) — some £10 million above initial expectations.

The company said yesterday that it had completed its expected staff-cutting programme, shedding 334 jobs across its international offices, slightly above September's forecasts of 300 job losses. It has also closed about 20 of the 57 offices that came into the enlarged group.

Mr Wagner said the company was well within the £10 million set aside for the closures, which will leave Dialog with 1,060 staff in 20 countries while moving all its databases to a mainframe computer in California.

Shares of Dialog, which were relisted at 188p last Friday, against Maid's suspension price of 215p, gained 21p to 180p yesterday.



Don Carty, president of AA, left, and Robery Ayling, chief executive of BA, may yet seal their alliance

## New hope for BA in US link

BRITISH Airways has been given fresh hope that its troubled plans for an alliance with American Airlines could yet be realised (Oliver August writes). The US congressional aviation committee has backed a compromise formula that would allow the alliance if it were phased in over several years along with landing slots at Heathrow for competitor airlines.

The alliance had been opposed by the European Commission and competitors, which had demanded more Heathrow landing slots than BA was willing to hand over.

William Lipton, a Democratic Congressman from Illinois, has written to regulators in Europe and the US to urge them to hold talks on the new compromise formula. Neither BA nor AA would comment on the compromise plan yesterday.

## E-mail key to Microsoft case

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNAL memo from a Microsoft executive sent by electronic mail forms the key plank of the US Justice Department's antitrust case against the software house.

Microsoft stands accused of using its existing monopoly in the personal computer software market to gain dominance illegally in the growing

market for Internet software. Janet Reno, the US Attorney General, yesterday stepped up her attack on Microsoft's bundling of its Windows 95 package with the Internet Explorer product.

A \$1 million-a-day fine could be imposed as early as next month after the filing of a 30-page charge sheet in Washington. The sheet includes the invidious e-mail from James Allchin, a senior vice-

president. Mr Allchin wrote on December 20 last year: "The current path is simply to copy everything Netscape [Microsoft's main competitor] does. My conclusion is we must leverage Windows more." He said that not bundling the two products means "losing our biggest advantage — Windows' market share". He encouraged other executives to "think first about an integrated solution".

Previously, Microsoft had argued that it had always intended Windows and Internet Explorer to be a single product.

The Justice Department now contends that the bundling was started this year. It said Microsoft was breaching a 1995 court-enforced agreement that narrowly restricts its software marketing. A number of computer manufacturers have claimed Microsoft

is forcing them to install Internet Explorer along with Windows to drive out Netscape's software.

The Justice Department said that the software bundling "has nothing to do with updating Microsoft's operating system. Microsoft's Internet Explorer was developed as — and in every way continues to be — a separate product from Microsoft's Windows 95 operating system."

## AA to run satellite service

A POWERFUL consortium of British companies is joining the assault on the multibillion-pound market for in-car satellite technology (Kevin Eason writes).

Global Telematics, a joint venture between European Telecom and Racal, yesterday announced that the AA will run its new vehicle tracking, navigation and information system with Vodafone as the mobile telephone

carrier. The Carphone Warehouse, one of Britain's most successful mobile phone sales operations, is also being enlisted along with Lucas Kienzie.

Target sales are £50 million-a-year by the turn of the century, mainly achieved through after-market fitting of the sophisticated equipment to fleet-owned vehicles. Discussions with leading carmakers, such as Nissan, have started for assembly line installations.

## Direct Line advert halted

THE Independent Television Commission has suspended the transmission of an advertisement by Direct Line after rival insurers complained.

Broadcasters have been told not to show the advert while the ITC investigates complaints that it is misleading.

The ITC said it received seven complaints accusing the telephone insurer of showing traditional insurance brokers in a damaging way. Among those

to complain was Norwich Union, which accused Direct Line of being "intentionally and damagingly misleading in its portrayal of brokers".

John Kitson, Norwich Union marketing manager, said: "We are delighted with the ITC suspension and it is a real victory for the insurance broker and Norwich Union. We believe Direct Line has intentionally tried to portray brokers from the past."

## Regulator warns banks over EMU

By RICHARD MILES BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD DAVIES, chairman of the Financial Services Authority, the new super-regulator, gave warning yesterday that economic and monetary union would push banks into far-flung markets where they have no expertise.

Mr Davies told a London conference that it was "a matter of some concern" how banks intended to compensate for the loss of their intra-EU foreign exchange business and diminishing profitability in their core markets.

A number of banks have told regulators that they plan to build up their exchange trading in Eastern European and other emerging markets. "There must be serious doubts about the expertise of some of these banks in those markets, and about the extent to which there is room for new competitors in what remains a small and specialised sector," said Mr Davies.

While EMU posed little or no risk to London as an international financial centre, Mr Davies said it would accelerate consolidation in an industry already characterised by overcapacity.

## Mortgage rate fears discounted

By CLARE STEWART

CONCERNS that a large number of homeowners are likely to be hit hard by sharply higher home loan payments when their fixed-rate mortgage deals run out next year have been discounted by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

There have been worries that, after the run of rises in interest rates, mortgage payers are set for a payments shock once fixed-rate schemes end and they then start paying at a higher variable rate.

Fionnuala Earley, senior economist at CML, says in the group's newsletter that, typically, fixed-rate loans are taken out on a short-term basis, of two to five years. CML figures also show that of the 13 per cent of mortgages that are fixed-rate loans, nearly half will mature next year.

But, says the CML, a number of factors will cushion the impact of this rise. These include the increase in average earnings over the period of the fixed-rate loan.

The CML expects that more homeowners facing higher payments may choose to switch to another lender with more favourable rates.

## Martin Currie cancels launch

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

MARTIN CURRIE, the Edinburgh fund manager, has pulled the launch of a new split capital investment trust after shareholders in General Consolidated, another split trust, turned it down as a rollover vehicle this week.

Martin Currie assumed the management of the £146 million General Consolidated trust (GCT) last year after its acquisition of Moorgate Fund Managers. Its new trust, Martin Currie High Income, had attracted pledges from holders of £40 million of GCT shares. However, a revolt by GCT income shareholders, led by Gearing Income, a rival split trust that has tabled its own offer, and Garmore Investment Trust Management, blocked the move, raising speculation that the two had done a deal.

Gearing Income, a £76 million fund, invests solely in the shares of split capital trusts. Garmore is also seeking to

launch a new split trust to succeed the £560 million Scottish National Trust that it manages. It increased its stake to 8 per cent in General Consolidated a few weeks ago. However, Tony Reid, investment director of Broker Financial Services, which manages Gearing Income, denied any deal and said the rejection by income shareholders had been overwhelming. Garmore was unavailable for comment.

Sandy Dudgeon, director of Martin Currie, said: "Of course we are disappointed that a small number of GCT income shareholders blocked the scheme recommended by the GCT board." He said the board could still propose an alternative.

Mr Reid said the board wanted to turn General Consolidated into a unit trust. However, he admitted that Gearing Income's bid had yet to receive tax clearance from the Inland Revenue.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Ford unions to meet over two-year offer

UNION officials at Ford car plants throughout the country are to be consulted over the next week on whether to accept a "final" pay offer worth at least 8.75 per cent over two years. The offer, tabled after two days of talks, was described as "disappointing" by the chief union negotiator yesterday. Tony Woodley, national officer of the Transport and General Workers Union, said the proposed deal would not redress the "drift" that Ford workers had suffered in their pay compared with other car companies. "We are disappointed with the offer, which we believe is at best only average compared to recent settlements," said Mr Woodley. "Ford workers deserve a better deal because of the productivity gains they have made in recent years."

Shop stewards at Ford plants across Britain will be consulted over the next week on whether the offer should be accepted. National union leaders will meet again in early December to decide their next move. Under the offer, the pay of Ford workers would increase by 4.5 per cent in year one, followed by a rise of 4.25 per cent or the rate of inflation plus 0.25 per cent, whichever is greater, in year two. Ford also offered an extra day's holiday from year two, to 25 days, and improvements on pensions.

### Lehman sells off units

LEHMAN BROTHERS, the Wall Street investment bank, will sell its private client businesses in London, Hong Kong and Singapore to Prudential Securities of the US for an undisclosed sum. The firm is to focus on higher-margin institutional business, including investment banking, the company said. The sale affects around 20 people in London. Lehman will retain its GLG Partners division in London, which manages assets for institutions and wealthy individuals. Its other private client businesses will not be sold.

### TRW in \$1bn US deal

TRW, the automotive and space technology company, has agreed to buy BDM International, which provides systems integration and computer services to government and commercial customers, in a deal valued at about \$1 billion (£580 million). The offer for the Virginia company is worth \$29.50 per share. TRW will launch a cash tender offer within the next five business days for BDM. It added that Carlyle Group, the investment firm, and affiliates, which own about 26 per cent of BDM, had agreed to tender their shares at the same price.

### Financial services 'biased'

THE financial services industry is still failing to provide fully unbiased advice, according to a report from the European Policy Forum research institute. *Insurance Regulation in the United Kingdom*, whose sponsors include Guardian, Royal & Sun Alliance and PPP, calls on the new Financial Services Authority to foster an ethical approach that produces consumer-friendly products. It also says there is a need for greater disclosure about products. The report urges the FSA to deliver its promise to allow the industry to self-regulate.

### Laidlaw increases bid

LIDLAW ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, the US waste management company, has increased its hostile takeover bid for Safety-Kleen to \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion). The offer came just hours after Safety-Kleen agreed to be bought by Philip Services of Canada and two investment partners for \$1.9 billion. The contest for Safety-Kleen comes amid consolidation in North America's waste management industry. "We are advising Safety-Kleen shareholders to sit tight," said Tom Burnert, at Merger Insight, an institutional reserve service. (Bloomberg)

### Reflec losses mount

SHARES in Reflec fell 21p to 321p yesterday after the manufacturer of reflective clothing and coated products reported a rise in first-half losses and said sales in the second half were unlikely to meet expectations. Losses were £264,000 before tax, compared with a £214,000 loss previously, despite a rise in sales to £390,000 from £300,000. Losses were 3.14p a share (3.09p loss) and there is again no interim dividend. The shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Market, peaked at 1231p earlier this year.

### DCS expands network

DCS GROUP said that it had expanded its European automotive network via the acquisition of two specialist suppliers in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The net consideration is £2.9 million. DCS said the acquisition represented an important step towards its strategic goal of achieving a leading market position in all leading European markets for automotive systems. Robin Lodge, executive chairman, said the acquisitions are expected to enhance earnings. The shares rose 17p to 2621p.

### Chesterfield purchase

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES, whose chief executive is Robert Maxted, has acquired the Pallion retail park in Sunderland for £6.8 million. The park, which was developed four years ago, produces an annual rental income of £540,000, equivalent to £7.10 per sq ft. Tenants include Iceland, Kwiksave, ScottishPower and Poundstretcher. Rent reviews on the park begin in September next year and Chesterfield estimates the current rental value to be £9 per sq ft.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.51	2.54
Austria Sch	21.76	20.10
Belgium Fr	64.85	59.09
Canada \$	2.516	2.528
Cyprus Cyp£	0.907	0.936
Denmark Kr	11.82	10.99
Finland Mk	5.45	5.70
France Fr	10.34	9.89
Germany Dr	3.11	2.97
Greece Dr	488	448
Hong Kong \$	13.88	12.68
Ireland £	121	101
Israel Sh	6.34	5.89
Italy Lit	2089	2082
Japan Yen	226.43	208.90
Malta	0.854	0.825
Netherlands Gld	3.615	3.220
New Zealand \$	2.35	2.61
Norway Kr	13.85	11.86
Poland Zl	21.50	21.50
S. Africa Rd	8.89	7.50
Spain Ptas	200.25	241.50
Sweden Kr	13.85	12.55
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.34
Taiwan New \$	265.52	309.45
USA \$	1.794	1.851

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### FIRST AMONG EQUALS

Immaculately turned out, with a cool charm that captivates clients, Carol Galley is a formidable force in corporate Britain.

How the Americans agreed to pay £3.1 billion for Mercury Asset Management, making Galley the first woman to sit on Merrill Lynch's executive board.

Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

## CITY BALLET OF LONDON

Following its successful tour of its new production of 'Sleeping Beauty' City Ballet of London (Royal Patron HRH The Duke of York, Charity No: 1061536) is seeking sponsorship for a new programme of one-act neo-classical ballets, its education programme and its young choreographers workshop in 1998. Please reply in full confidence to: 0171 405 0044.

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هكذا من الضمير

Earlier this month Jonathan Guinness published *Requiem for a Family Business*. His publishers proclaimed that the book would shed light "on one of the most remarkable financial scandals to face the City of London". The author, they said, would present "an insider's view of that scandal".

As is so often the case, the book fails to live up to the blurb. Jonathan Guinness, aka Lord Moyne, a non-executive director of the family company for 27 years, goes into some detail about his idiosyncratic contributions to board meetings, but his insight into what went on when the company, led by Ernest Saunders, decided it would take control of Distillers seems to be informed as much by newspaper comment as by inside information.

Sadly, Lord Moyne is not available to give the interviews that his publishers promised and which might have put some colourful flesh on the bones of his tale. He is somewhat preoccupied at the moment with trying to explain his involvement with a Scandinavian outfit whose funds have gone astray, causing some alarm to the Swedish authorities. With delicious irony, the company is called Truster.

But while his *Requiem* may not excite the masses, we are about to see publication of what promises to be a rollicking good read on the same subject. David

Donaldson, QC, and Ian Glen-dinning Watt were the two inspectors appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to unravel the Guinness affair. No author likes to labour in vain and at last their efforts are to see the light. The President of the Board of Trade has decreed that the public should be able to read the results of the inspectors' inquiries and on Thursday they will go on sale at Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It may be that what appears will be a somewhat edited version of the inspectors' original, but it still promises to provide plenty of material for bar-room gossip around the Square Mile. For some, it will revive old memories of how the City used to function. For Guinness was only an exaggerated version of what had gone before. For more recent recruits to the City, it will introduce a cast of characters worthy of a West End musical, perhaps a follow-up to *Chicago*, currently packing them in at the Adelphi.

Because of its historic nature — the Guinness takeover of Distillers was in 1986 — the only careers that it is likely to affect are those of the two inspectors, now due their moment of fame. But the timing of its publica-

tion is an extraordinary coincidence. It comes in the week in which both Grand Metropolitan and Guinness hold the extraordinary general meetings that will ratify their merger. Shareholders will also have to vote to approve the change to the ghostly name, Diageo. Some may feel that, despite the imagery of the famous stout, the chance to shrug off a name which has become synonymous with City sharp practice should be welcomed.

#### Battle fighting the wrong coal battle

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has made increasingly plain his irritation with Richard Budge, chief of the eponymous RJB.

When pressed on the clear crisis looming in the coal industry, the aggressively defensive Mr Battle has responded with remarks such as "the pres-

sure is on Mr Budge, quite frankly". The Minister has said that he cannot ask the electricity generators, with whom RJB is negotiating new contracts, "to subsidise Mr Budge".

These may be the comments of one blunt Yorkshireman on another but they do not amount to a ministerial response. The Government is faced with an imminent crisis that threatens the entire coal industry. Mr Battle seems interested only in focusing the debate on Mr Budge and the way that he conducts his business.

This is to ignore the real issues, which go far beyond one company. The Labour Government has failed to deliver an energy policy despite endlessly trotting out the pledge to make energy "diverse, secure and sustainable". In its short time in power, it has hastened the dash for gas in electricity generation, which will lead to heavy dependency on imported gas from politically

unstable countries. It has con-signed coal purely to the work-ings of the market place where British-produced stocks have to fight against government-subsidised imports from Germany.

Mr Battle's department has forecast a halving of jobs in mining while critical negotiations continue. He behaves as if energy is out of his hands, dependent on the vagaries of the market and on the negotiating abilities of one man.

Yet the Government should be more than a mere spectator at the fate of an industry. Were it so inclined, it could take action to ensure a future for the coal industry and so deliver the diversity of energy it is so fond of talking about. It could halt the new building of gas-fired power stations or offer an incentive for power stations that have clean- ing equipment for coal. It could invest in clean-coal technology or seek to relax its onerous environ- mental commitments.

If it does none of these things, we will see the once unthinkable situation of a Labour government presiding over the ultimate death of the mining industry. Even for a party that has modernised to the extent that new Labour has, it is not a politically palatable prospect.

The pressure is not only on Mr Budge: it is also on Mr Battle.

#### Pragmatic solution

As with house prices, every- one has a view about architecture. Mitsubishi, the Japanese property developer with the doubtful privilege of promoting the latest Paternoster Square redevelopment, is keep- ing its head down. This is wise given the torrent of abuse from people in high places that was heaped on previous schemes.

Yesterday, Mitsubishi stood behind its adviser, Schroders, and the brains behind the new proposal, Sir William Whitfield. The author of the masterplan braved torrents from the heavens as he took interested parties on a tour through the rain-stained concrete slabs of the square near St Paul's Cathedral. He was only

partially protected by an um- brella held by a young lady from Mitsubishi.

It is to be hoped that this scheme draws fewer brickbats because it is exactly what is required. To the visitor, London looks a bit of a mess compared with the grand boulevards and set-pieces of Paris and the power- play of New York towers. But in that confusion of styles and streets lies the City's charm and personality, where turning a corner can reveal a splendid view. Sir William has recognised this and produced a plan that is in essence very much a com- promise and therefore very British.

Instead of one architect, we have many. Purists will regret the lack of consistency, but they forget that the City of London is a land of pragmatists where a successful deal is one that works for everyone.

#### An inspector calls

NIKOLAI GOGOL'S play, *The Government Inspector*, has entertained theatre audiences around the world. But in his native Russia the jokes sound a little thin. Apparently, the average Moscow shopkeeper is visited by 19 government inspectors a year. Small wonder, says *The Economist's The World in 1998*, that Russia's underground economy is now worth more than its official economy. That's real red tape in action.

## Colt seeks £200m for growth in London

By CHRIS AYRES

COLT TELECOM, the Euro- pean telecom operator that specialises in providing high- quality services to businesses and governments, is seeking to raise £200 million through an equity offering and a debt issue.

The company said the money would be used for a potential fourfold expansion of its London operations, which currently run from Canary Wharf to the City and the West End. It would also be used to establish new services in Berlin, Zurich, Brussels and Milan.

Colt already has operations in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Paris. The move was greeted with enthusiasm by the City, with Colt's shares jumping 13½p to 598½p yesterday, having more than doubled in value in four months. Confidence in the company is strong even though it has still not made a profit, with last year's pre-tax losses standing at £11 million, on turnover of just £34 million.

However, earlier this month Colt reported a 144 per cent rise in sales to £55 million for the nine months to September 30.

Colt's performance will be closely watched by telecom analysts, who had their fingers burnt earlier this week when shares in Ionica, Colt's

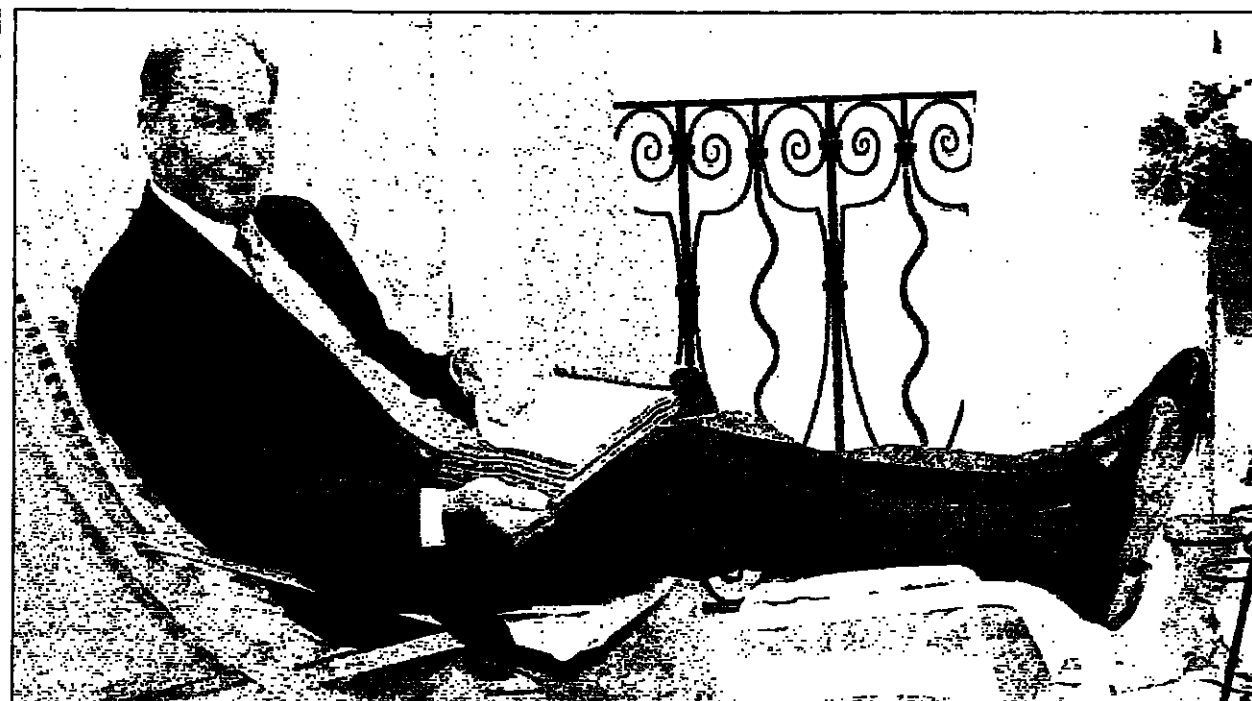
wireless rival, plunged 101p to 156½p, having floated in August at 421p.

Interest in start-up telecoms companies will heighten even further next month with the flotation of Energis, the telecommunications arm of the National Grid, which is expected to be valued at about £1 billion. Energis will also aim its services — provided by telephone lines slung over electricity cables — at the business market.

John Doherty, director of investor relations at Colt, said: "The technology we use enables us to offer reliability and quality of service, although we also have competitive pricing. But we still have a long way to go. At present we have 800 customers in London, and we believe there is a potential market of 3,000 to 4,000. There is a huge amount of major business focused in the City," Colt said the problems that had hit Ionica would not affect its own business.

Colt said that half of the £200 million being raised would come from the offering of 16.8 million shares at 88p each; the other half would come from a debt issue of about £100 million.

Tempus, page 31



Measuring up: Sir Peter Osborne, chairman of Osborne & Little, the wallpaper and fabrics company, is taking a cautious view of current trading, but expects a satisfactory outcome for the full year. (Fraser Nelson, writes). Shares fell 42½p

to 597½p, a nine-month low, as the company said that a slow start to the year had coupled with currency problems to make for an uncertain second half. The company returned a flat pre-tax profit of £2.2 million (£2.01 million) for the six

months to September 30 after launching four Nina Campbell ranges and the first Stewart Furnishings range under its stewardship. Earnings were 22.1p (20.2p) a share, and a dividend of 9p (8p) is due to be paid on January 21.

## Bid for Energy Group referred

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Energy Group is only weeks away from hearing its fate after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the £3.65 billion bid for the company by PacificCorp yesterday went to the Department of Trade and Industry.

A decision from Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is not expected until January. The announcement comes at a similar time to the DTI's publication of its Green

Paper on utility regulation. One of the issues which led to the surprise referral of the bid was the concern that The Energy Group could be harder to regulate if it were owned by a large US parent.

This affected none of the previous bids for electricity companies made by US businesses under the previous Conservative Government but in Opposition Mrs Beckett had called for referrals.

## Chancellor's 'golden scenario' aims at noble entry into EMU

Today is a red-letter day. For the first time we have a Green Paper setting out a blueprint for the development of our tax system. It will finally take our economy from its ignoble exit, under the last Government, from the ERM on Black Wednesday (later revised to White) to my golden scenario of EMU entry.

I have a number of tax proposals to announce. As pledged in our General Election manifesto, I intend to introduce greater fairness to our tax system. I have three measures to announce today:

□ A new starting rate of income tax at 10 per cent for the first £2,000 of taxable income, which will benefit all taxpayers.  
□ Changes to inheritance tax and the taxation of trusts to ensure that each generation is responsible for its own wealth-creation.  
□ A new general anti-avoidance measure. While tax avoidance is not illegal, it costs the Exchequer many millions of pounds each year. From now on, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise will have powers to void any arrangement they decide is unacceptable. I recognise that some commentators have suggested this is contrary to natural justice and the rule of law, and puts too much power in the hands of the Civil Service.

Since this view has mainly been expressed by accountants and solicitors who are responsible for the tax avoidance, I have ignored their comments on the matter.

I also want to reduce people's dependency on the State for pension provision. It has been scurrilously suggested that the £3.5 billion tax increases in my first Budget will affect tomorrow's pensioners. But we need to do more and I have two proposals.

On Tuesday, Gordon Brown will deliver the first ever pre-Budget report. Peter Wyman, head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand, has been reading the Chancellor's thoughts



Brown: "greater taxation fairness"

□ I intend to introduce a new Individual Savings Account, thus honouring yet another of our manifesto commitments. Tax relief will be given on investment into specially designated investment accounts, which will be sold through the National Lottery operator to provide a nationwide network of easily accessible investment points. Relief will be given at the new starting

rate of tax for investment of up to £2,000 each year for every adult whether or not they are taxpayers. It will be paid for by the phasing out of Peps and Tassas over the next five years. It will revolutionise the saving habits of the country.

□ I intend to halve the rate of capital gains tax for assets that have been held for more than ten years. The cost of this valuable measure will be met by an increase from 40 per cent to 55 per cent for gains on assets that have been held for less than three years.

The 55 per cent rate will also apply to gains that result from land sold for development, regardless of how long that land has been owned.

Finally, I come to business taxation. In my first Budget I announced a phasing-out of foreign income dividends to bring to an end an unacceptable abuse of the tax system.

However, since that Budget unscrupulous businesses have further exploited the system. Accordingly, more drastic action is now needed. I have therefore determined to end the imputation system of corporation tax. In future, companies will no longer be required to account for ACT on their dividends.

A system of payment in advance for corporation tax will be introduced to even out the cashflow variance that would otherwise arise. Since there will no longer be ACT, it follows that shareholders will no longer receive a tax credit in respect of dividend receipts.

They therefore will quite properly be liable to income tax at the normal rates. These measures will meet the cost of the new 10 per cent starting rate of income tax in full. At the same time, relief for past, unutilised ACT will no longer be permitted, producing a one-off saving for the Treasury of £7 billion.

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## Perfect practitioners of the art of value management

Monday, January 22, last year, is a day that will always be etched on Sir Rocco Forte's memory. The hotelier had spent more than four months defending his family business from an unwelcome £3.8 billion bid by Granada. The outcome was on a knife-edge. Sir Rocco had been given little chance of saving Forte but had managed to convince many City cynics that he could revitalise the business. But one investor was key: Mercury Asset Management. It held 14.4 per cent of Forte's shares.

After a busy weekend Sir Rocco arrived at his office in Holborn to be told that Carol Galley and Stephen Zimmerman were on their way to see him. Sir Rocco thought that a visit from the duo — who had built MAM from a small and unloved operation within SG Warburg, the merchant bank, to arguably the most powerful fund manager in the City — could only be good news. He was wrong. "They came in person to tell Sir Rocco their decision," remembers his sister, and fellow Forte board director, Olga Polizzi. "That was the cruelest thing."

But in the minds of Galley and Zimmerman this was not cruelty. It was courtesy. They had turned up to explain to Sir Rocco why they were selling: that, despite his hard work, accepting Granada's bid was merely in line with the investment philosophy that they had followed for more than a quarter of a century. This philosophy delivered London Weekend Television into Granada's hands two

years previously, leading to accusations of lack of loyalty by Sir Christopher Bland, then LWT's chairman, now Chairman of the BBC. This philosophy had revolutionised the City, given the duo seven-figure salaries and bonus packages and would ultimately persuade Merrill Lynch to pay £3.1 billion for MAM.

The bespectacled, punctilious Galley and thin, immaculately dressed Zimmerman started at MAM on the same day in 1971. To be accurate, they actually started at Warburg, as the fund management operation was not separated from the merchant bank at the time. Both were graduate trainees. The 22-year-old Zimmerman had hoped to work in corporate finance but found himself in the less glamorous area of fund management. Galley, famously, started in the library, but former colleagues say this was a temporary posting and it was not long before she joined Zimmerman under the wing of Leonard Licht, the controversial fund manager who created the MAM philosophy.

Under Licht, MAM took aggressive stakes in companies, much higher than would be dictated by the traditional system of investment weight-

### IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: CAROL GALLEY  
STEPHEN ZIMMERMAN

Carol Galley: born 1948; Gosforth Grammar, Newcastle, and Leicester University; 1971 SG Warburg; 1981 MAM director; 1987 joint deputy chairman. Stephen Zimmerman: born 1949; Clifton College, Bristol, and City of London College; 1971 SG Warburg; 1981 MAM director; 1987 vice-chairman.

ings. MAM used principles described as "value management". This involves detailed analysis of a company to work out what it should be worth, buying a substantial stake and encouraging the management to work

hard to deliver this worth. Galley and Zimmerman were the perfect practitioners of the technique. They were highly intelligent, hard-working and came from outside the City establishment of public school and Oxbridge. "They were dedicated and focused," remembers Licht, who left MAM five years ago, claiming it was getting too big. They surrounded themselves with similar people, such as Nicola Horlick and Peter Young, who both joined Morgan Grenfell with unhappy consequences. However, the group always had a City insider as chairman and frontman — first Peter Stormonth Darling and then Hugh Stevenson, a Warburg corporate financier said to have "gone native" when he joined MAM.

Even now, those who know Galley and Zimmerman say they largely live for their work. Galley may have a cottage in France and her box at the opera. Zimmerman may have his season ticket at Arsenal but MAM dominates their lives, a facet which may appeal to their new American colleagues, as will their fierce loyalty to the company. Horlick, who joined MAM in the early 1980s, leaving in 1991, remembers Galley for her

dedication to the company philosophy, constantly pointing out to subordinates that certain ways of working were "not the Warburg style". Galley has promoted the idea of breaking up the massive amount of money that MAM manages into bite-sized chunks in an attempt to allow the group to grow without losing the spectacular performance that was behind its growth in the first place.

But many doubt whether this can continue. The recent performance of the firm's largest pension fund product — the MFS equities and property fund — has plummeted from 20th out of 70 in 1994, to 47th in 1995 and 67th last year. Other funds are said to have performed better, but MAM does not publish the figures. "Trustees have told us they [MAM] are not communicating well, saying their record stands for itself," says a rival. "This could be interpreted as arrogance."

Another says that the sheer size of the combined Merrill Lynch/MAM business — with £266 billion of assets — will mean it has to be more conservative. Even MAM admits that expanding the business further in the UK is a near-impossible task and longingly eyes Europe for further growth. "With a fund that big, the only way to recreate the old MAM performance is to buy 20 per cent of Shell or Unilever and frighten the management," laughs a former colleague. "I don't think even Carol and Stephen would want to do that."

JASON NISSE



Stephen Zimmerman and Carol Galley live for work

## Ken Clarke plc strides on to business stage

The former Chancellor shows all the enthusiasm of a new boy in his corporate role, says Janet Bush

Kenneth Clarke, back-bencher, free at last. Liberated from high office by the Labour landslide, he can now truly indulge his private passions. There is Europe, of course. The Conservative whips were never hugely successful in silencing him on the subject. Nowadays, he talks about little else and has the satisfaction of being paid for airing the views that so often caused apoplexy among his Cabinet colleagues. Earlier this month, he gave eight speeches in a week, several on the single currency.

But the former Chancellor has come out of the closet in far less predictable ways. Once his sartorial fame rested on his soft brown shoes. Now there's that hat. Mr Clarke insists that this jaunty addition to his wardrobe, a trill, has nothing to do with trying to impress his new colleagues in company boardrooms.

He admits that he has always had a penchant for headgear, but never wore hats in public while he was a minister (except at football matches) because Tory style-gurus disapproved. Part of the delight of being a backbencher is that he can now be completely indifferent to his public image. "It's all me now," he says, gleefully. He is even contemplating growing "an Ernest Hemingway type of beard", but only when he is a lot older.

Mr Clarke certainly looks fitter and more relaxed than he did at the Treasury in the dog-days of the last administration. He says that he is less tired, but not noticeably less busy. His

role as standard-bearer of his party's pro-European wing and as the new chairman of the Tory Reform Group keeps him well occupied. But he now has to squeeze into a bursting diary his considerable new portfolio of corporate posts.

Ken Clarke plc, the new enfant terrible of British business, is headquartered in prime office space at No 1 Parliament Street. It may not be in the House of Commons or the Treasury, but the windows of his third-floor office have close-up views of both. One wonders whether Gordon Brown ever spots a cigar-smoking figure gazing at his old command post across the street just a little enviously.

Mr Clarke has taken on four private sector jobs since the election. He has been appointed non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the chairman of UniChem, the chemist that on Thursday announced a £278 million merger with Alliance Santé of France to create the second-largest player in Europe's drugs market.

He is to act as adviser to Daiwa Europe, part of the Japanese securities house, and next year he becomes non-executive deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, once BAT's financial services business has completed its merger with Zurich Life, the Swiss insurer.

It has been estimated that once he formally goes on the BAT payroll, probably in the summer, Mr Clarke will be earning something in excess of £200,000 a year. He is not embarrassed in the least by such riches after 18 years as a relatively lowly paid Member of Parliament. He has clearly enjoyed the process of testing his market value.

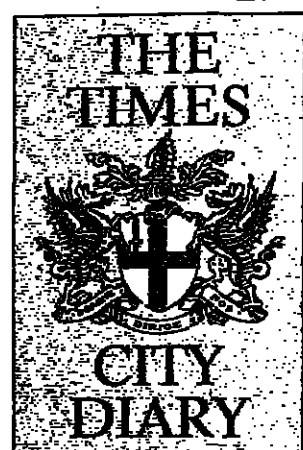
"I found myself for the first time in my life using my negotiating skills on my own behalf, on how much I was going to be paid. Did he find this easy? 'I got into it, yes!' he guffawed. The nation's teachers and nurses must be breathing a sigh of relief that his victims across the negotiating table this time are the bosses, not the workers.

In the summer, lunched for old times' sake by a group of economics editors, Mr Clarke was clearly being bombarded by offers from the private sector. If he had not been committed to politics, he says that he would have had the chance of even bigger jobs than the ones he has now chosen. He has turned down dozens of offers from publishing houses to write his memoirs because he has no intention of retiring from Westminster for many years.

## Freudian flip

"TALENTLESS bunch of no-hopers" was, I believe, the phrase used in *Absolutely Fabulous* to sum up the Freud. The descendants of the founder of modern psychology have found fame in even more distinguished arenas — one a disc jockey, the odd novel knocked out, a public relations man, even an outcrop in the City — hi, David. Now one has found a niche at the most epochal project of the late 20th century, the Millennium Dome.

Matthew Freud, the public relations one, of course, is joining Sam Chisholm, former chief executive of BSKYB, his sidekick David Chance and Michael Grade, on the executive committee. Freud was signed up by Chisholm. "He is a huge force of energy and he understands the youth market," he says. We shall see.



down and see your trading floor?" he asked. Alas, it closed a decade ago.

● A VERY bad day yesterday for Charles Fry, chief executive of Johnson Fry, who was forced to issue a humiliating loss warning. Not quite as humiliating, though, as an event a few years back in his career. Fry is one of the few recipients of a fourth-class degree, though he does not boast of it. His brother Jonathan, chief executive of Burnham Castrol, spilled the beans to a colleague of mine while back. I had no idea such a thing existed. A fall is a fall through lack of ability. A fourth is when you are deemed to have the ability but have been too idle to use it.

### City Spice?

EMI has a new Spice Girl. The label has signed up gorgeous, leggy Kathleen O'Donovan, advocate of Girl Power in the City and finance director of BTR, as a non-executive director.

I am well aware that O'Donovan hates being deemed worthy of comparison to that frolicsome fivesome of the stage and that she will doubtless find this item deeply offensive. But then I doubt she ever reads anything quite as trivial as a diary column.



Kathleen O'Donovan: Spicing up the City

### Humbug

A MAN after my own heart, Kalle Lasn has been waging a five-year campaign against Christmas, and more specifically the lemming-like instinct that drives people to the shops before it. He is an American advertising man who has been trying to start a national Buy Nothing Day every year on the Friday after Thanksgiving, deemed in the States for some reason the formal start of the Christmas shopping frenzy. Lasn has created a 30-second commercial featuring an animated pig reminding his fellow citizens of how much they consume by comparison with less prosperous nations. Worthy but doomed: the three big American television networks refused to screen it, admitting that it went against their business interests. CBS even accused him of being "in opposition to the current economic policy in the US."

### Floored

SO JUST who was the distinguished lecturer of economics at a British university who rang up the Stock Exchange's telephone helpline the other day and requested permission to show a gaggle of students around? "I like to keep my undergraduates up to date with what is happening in the City. Is it possible for us to come

### Doing time

MAX DOLDING, highly rated leisure analyst at James Capel, was at the High Court this week giving evidence in the Queens Moat Houses legal action, and he does not sound like he enjoyed the experience. Cross-examination by John Bairstow, the former chairman whom Queens Moat's current management accuses of misleading the market using analysts as fall guys, was about notes taken by Dolding at meetings with the company in the 1980s, and Dolding admitted he might be tempted to throw such notes away in the future.

Bairstow asked if he had been a leisure analyst for 33 years. "About 22. It seems like 33," says a dejected Dolding, adding: "I have actually been in this court for 33 years. It seems." So why did he attend? "Because I was subpoenaed to be here."

### Soap dish

IN what I hope will not become a trend, DX Communications, the mobile telephone retailer, has launched the official DX Coronation Street Mobile Phone. Purchasers will receive text messages carrying the latest about the Street. Alternatively there is a weekly recorded message with the latest "news". Just the thing for those unfortunate soap opera addicts who long ago lost touch with reality.

MARTIN WALLER



Liz Dawn: Vera Duckworth on line

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CHANGING TIMES











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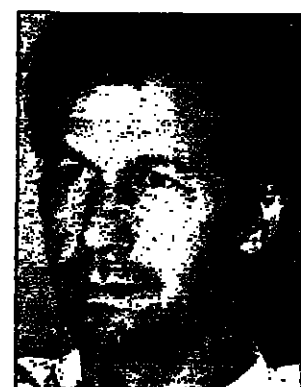
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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

THE TIMES WEEKEND

Diana, the last fairy-tale princess

The life and death of Diana, Princess of Wales has been turned into a children's story, but one that the Royal Family may find too close for comfort.

Roger Boyes talks to one of the Austrian authors



Robert Menasse, one of the authors of the *The Last Fairy-tale Princess*, and Gerhard Haderer, the book's illustrator

Once upon a time there was a young girl called Sophie, who did not believe in fairy princesses. Fortunately, Sophie's father was a novelist, her mother a historian, her aunt a journalist and their family friend a cartoonist, Gerhard Haderer, known for his scathing caricatures of the Queen of England.

And so a fairy-tale was re-invented in time to fill the Christmas stockings of German children.

*The Last Fairy-tale Princess* was written for five to nine-year-olds who missed out on the storybook life of Diana, Princess of Wales, obscured as it was by the adult maze of eating disorders, adultery and divorce.

On the day that the Princess died, Robert Menasse, an Austrian novelist, headed out from Vienna to his country cottage with his family to do some work on his novel. "I must

confess that Lady Diana never interested me," he said. But his life, he found that weekend, had been invaded by the death of the Princess. "On the car radio: Princess Diana, Princess Diana. The newspapers: the Princess. Conversations with my wife: the Princess. On television: the funeral. What did my wife, my sister, and I discuss over dinner? Correct.

"Then my daughter suddenly piped up: 'Why are you talking about a princess the whole time? Princesses only exist in fairy-tales.'" The eight-year old girl was irritated that the grown-ups were obsessively talking about a child's subject without even involving the children.

The short book redresses the balance. The pictures can be viewed as parody — the Queen, in particular, comes over as a grumpy mother-in-law — and the words are witty to adult readers. But the main audience



"The Princess was photographed the whole time... The Prince was so upset by the fuss that he preferred to spend his time with a lady-friend, who no one wanted to photograph"

is little girls who have to be told gently that the marriage of a beautiful girl to an eligible prince does not, in itself, constitute a happy end, or even a happy middle.

Modern fairy-tales have footnotes and postscripts. "There was once a kindergarten teacher," the book says. "She lived in a land surrounded by water. The country was ruled by an old Queen guarded by men who wore fur helmets even in summer." The Prince, whose ears are distinctively shown in the pictures, "liked to wear checked skirts and woollen knee socks. Most of all he liked to play polo, a ball game which is very difficult because you

have to ride horses while playing it". The couple met, married and "never before have so many people in the world watched television at the same time".

The media weave in and out of the story because they, too, are part of modern fairy-tales. Indeed, journalists play the role of wicked wolves.

"The Princess was photographed and watched the whole time... she was never left in peace."

The result: "The Prince was so upset by the fuss that he preferred to spend his time with a lady-friend, who shared his interest in riding and who no one wanted to photograph."

This being a fairy-tale for little girls, the Princess's clothes feature strongly. "She had the very best clothes and when her cupboard was too full, she sold them. And because a princess is different, her worn clothes were worth more than they were new. She earned lots of money, which she gave to the poor and the sick."

And then something happened which never happens in fairy-tales: "The Prince and the Princess divorced. This was so outrageous that the Princess was followed by photographers and reporters everywhere she went. The whole world wanted

to know: what would the beautiful Princess do now?"

After the divorce, the princess became the most photographed woman in the world. And so her clothes became even more precious and earned even more for the poor and the sick.

After her death, the authors say, "her old clothes were worth ten times what they were worth when she was alive".

The little girl to whom I read this story understood the point: that the Princess's clothes were somehow part of her magic, like gold spun out of thread.

The lonely Princess fell prey again to the evil photographers when she fell in love with a millionaire. "He loved the Prin-

cess so much that he wrote poems for her and had them engraved on silver plates which he placed under her pillow."

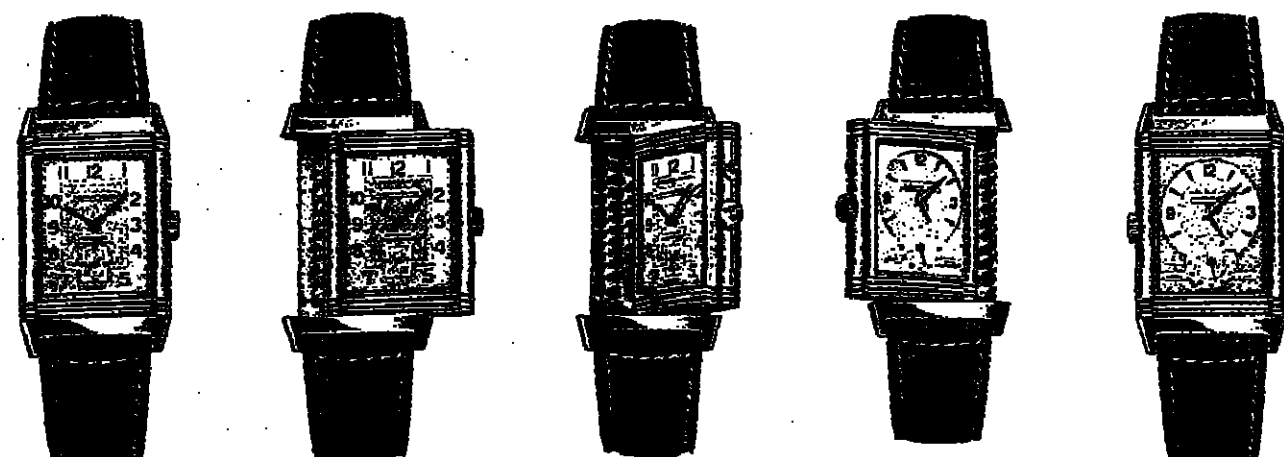
Then, the Paris chase, the fatal crash. The most dramatic picture in the book depicts Dodi Fayed (identified only as "the millionaire") making a dash to his car with Diana... "In those days it became dangerous to be seen with a camera."

Adult irony edges into the narrative. "It was a sad time for the famous conductor, for the famous psychotherapist, and the very famous missionary

Continued on page 2

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Their last minutes: the fairy-tale depicts Dodi Fayed (identified only as "the millionaire") making a dash to his car with the Princess of Wales, eluding the paparazzi who play the role of wicked wolves

Continued from page 1  
and Peace Prize winner who died in the same week. Because nobody found the time to talk about their deaths.

Children love statistics. So many newspapers were sold after the crash "that Finnish woodchoppers had to work twice as much as usual" to supply the wood that made the paper that produced the newspapers. Planes full of flowers had to fly from Israel to keep up with the demand for floral tributes.

The Queen does not escape lightly in this tale. "The old Queen never much liked the Princess," the book says. "Now she had to do all kinds of things to honour her, because otherwise the sad people would have chased her out of the palace.

And in the whole land flags hung at half-mast as a sign of grief — except over Buckingham Palace, until "the people compelled the Queen, whether she liked it or not, to hang her flag at half-mast as well".

Sophie's mother, who is narrating the story, tells her daughter: "That was the tale of the last real fairy-tale princess. And because she died, she lives still."

That the Princess of Wales lives on is certainly the impression one gains from German newspaper stands: the front pages of 12 titles this week carried pictures of her with headlines such as "Diana — Evidence of Murder?", "Diana Speaks to her Children from the After Life", "Charles to Camilla: I Don't Want to See You". In Berlin,

## 'The people compelled the Queen, whether she liked it or not, to hang her flag at half-mast'

students have been enrolling for a term of courses on the "semiology of the Diana myth".

The myth of the Princess has had an impact on many continental novelists. "Writers are voyeurs," Menasse says. The function of a writer, he says, is to disentangle myths from their interpretation, to set the story straight. "First there was Oedipus, then there was the Oedipus complex... Yet we behave as if it were the other way round —

as if the Oedipus complex was always there and the figure of Oedipus is just someone who matches the symptoms."

The same is in danger of happening to the Princess of Wales. "There is as yet no Diana syndrome, but soon well-born anorexic daughters will be told that there was always such a syndrome."

Suhrkamp, the publisher of *The Last Fairy-tale Princess*, has sold the rights of the book around the world,

and is talking to British publishers. The central question is whether the British reading public is ready to accept, so soon, the reshaping not only of the Princess's life story but of a specifically national myth.

Some British readers may also find Gerhard Haderer's illustrations too audacious. He portrays the Queen as a scowling matron with an outsize crown, and in one of the scenes shows the Princess hobnobbing on a sofa with celebrities while Michael Jackson is sitting on the floor playing with one of the young Princesses.

Menasse's fairy-tale devotes more space to the national mourning of the Princess's death than to her marriage; in some ways this flatters the British people but it may, over

time, seem to be the correct reading of the relationship between the Princess and the British psyche.

Menasse argues that the Princess is a key to understanding the modern world. "To describe our world we do not need to resort to the ancient myth. We have our own myths and our own fairy-tales."

After the adults had compiled the text, they read it over and over again to Sophie to ensure that she understood the story. The fairy-tale ends up, like the Princess's life, "as an easily understood story which we cannot completely understand".

The book is dedicated to Sophie. ● The Last Fairy-tale Princess, by Elizabeth, Eva and Robert Menasse. Illustrations by Gerhard Haderer (Suhrkamp, Frankfurt).

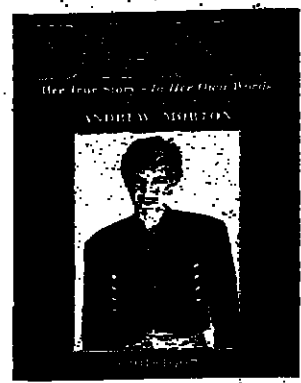
## TOP TEN

## Morton still outsells the rest

■ *Diana: Her True Story* — in her own words by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). Controversial biography. Sales: £1,357,372

■ *Diana, Princess of Wales: A Tribute* by Tim Graham (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99). Photo-story of her life. Sales: £313,173

■ *Diana: Her True Story* by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £6.99). The original exposé. Sales: £152,551



■ *Diana: A Tribute to the People's Princess* by P. Donnelly (Branley Books, £7.99). Sales: £88,715

■ *Diana, Princess of Wales 1961-1997: A Tribute in Photographs* ed. Michael O'Mara (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). Sales: £85,934

■ *Diana: Her New Life* by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £6.99). Sales: £74,814

## DIANA

PRINCESS OF WALES



A Tribute  
TIM GRAHAM

■ *Diana: A Life and Legacy* by Anthony Holden (Ebury Press, £16.99). Sales: £38,922

■ *Diana Remembered by The Daily Telegraph* (Macmillan, £12.99 and £14.99). Sales: £31,358

■ *Diana: The People's Princess* by Nicholas Owen (Carlton Books, £12.99). A retrospective. Sales: £27,955



■ *Diana Princess of Wales: A Tribute to Our Princess* by Audrey Daly (Ladybird Books, £1.50). This pocket-money buy has 20p of the cover price donated to the Diana Memorial Fund. Sales: £23,234

● Sales from Aug 31 to Nov 15. Source: Whitaker BookTrack.

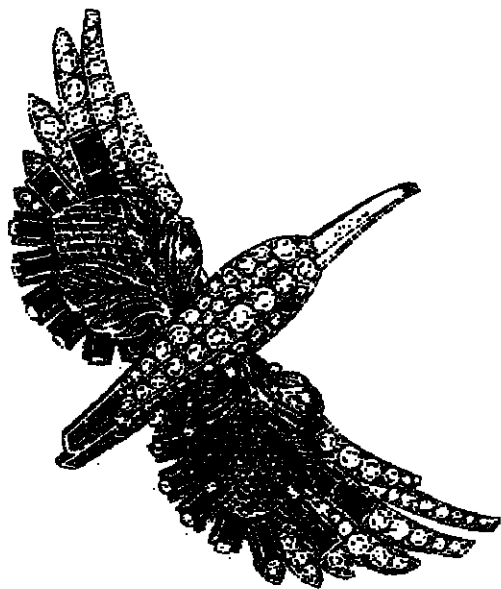
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## THE MARKET

## Diana still big news in the book world

People who believe that the market for books on Diana, Princess of Wales is saturated, should think again. Alex O'Connell writes. International interest in her story is unprecedented — there are three Diana books in the *New York Times* bestseller lists — and as many as 50 more books on the Princess her life and death are planned for publication before the first anniversary of her death next summer.

While British publishers negotiate with the German publishers of *The Last Fairy-tale Princess*, there are signs that Christmas sales of the books already on offer are levelling



A Chinese bookseller pins up a poster promoting Diana books. Interest in the Princess's life and death is unprecedented

out. Such delights as the *Teletubbies* are now outstripping Diana in the bestseller lists.

But the trade is hoping for a late Christmas rush and is confident of a surge in the run-up to next year's anniversary.

While Andrew Morton still tops the list with *Diana: Her true story* — in her own words, followed by the photographer Tim Graham's *Diana, Princess of Wales: A Tribute*, biographers have little doubt that there is room for more.

Among those with books in the pipeline are the acerbic writer Julie Burchill, whose description of Diana some years ago in a newspaper column as "the people's Princess" has been plagiarised without shame by Tony Blair.

Burchill is pro-Diana and her book will contain plenty of large, flattering pictures accompanied by spiky prose — the spikes being used in defence of her heroine.

Two *Time* magazine journalists are finishing an investigation into the circumstances of Diana's death, looking those responsible and providing a detailed chronology of her last moments.

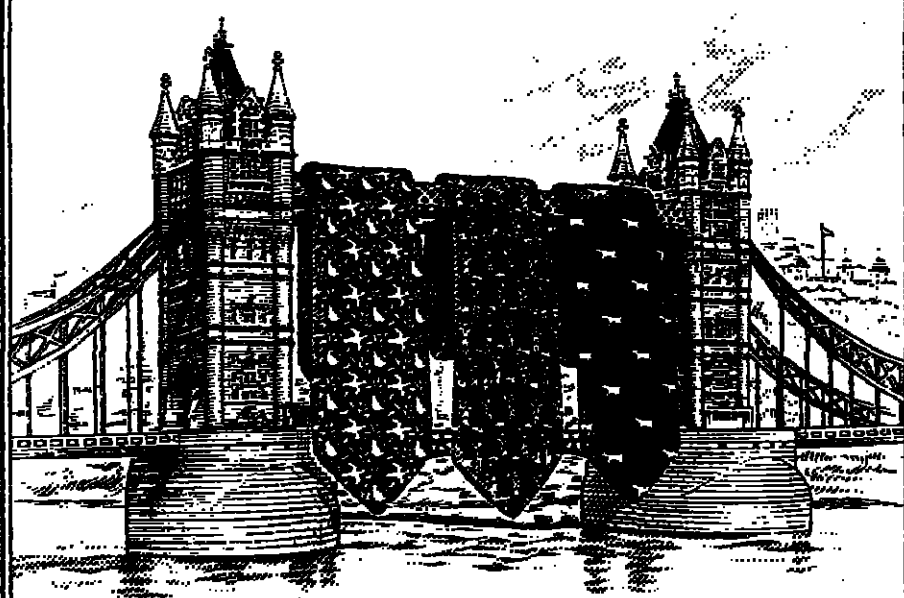
*Death of a Princess: an Investigation* will be one of the first serious attempts to determine who was responsible for the accident on that Sunday night in August and, as a result, is likely to sell.

The market will take an investigative book and there is room for more picture books as well," says Georgina Capel, Julie Burchill's literary agent. "But it can't take any more of those general books."

The royal biographer Sarah Bradford, whose book *Elizabeth, a Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, was serialised in *The Times*, believes a serious treatment of the Princess would sell. "I was sent a lot of Diana books to review and I dug my heels in and said no because most of them were too awful," she says. "There was one called *Letters from God*, written by children to God after her death, and another called *The Wisdom of Diana*."

Bradford, an admirer of Andrew Morton's book — "it is still the best whatever your view of whether the tapes should have been included or

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# Who's been sleeping in my bed?



A kiss recorded on heat-sensitive film. White shows the hottest areas of the body, the face and underarms, while the cooler parts are shown in dark blue



Ordinary detergent bubbles, at around one five-hundredth the thickness of a human hair, are one of the thinnest substances visible to the naked eye



An electron micrograph of a human hand, showing the build up of thousands of sweat droplets produced after an hour's exercise

**S**weating in terror, you are locked into a hideous dream of carnivorous aliens swarming over your body. The alarm jolts you awake. "It was only a nightmare," you think, but in fact the real nightmare is only just beginning. You roll out of bed, leaving your partner to luxuriate for a little while longer on her warm pillow... where a small civilisation thrives. These are *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* — the flesh-eating pillow mites. Under the microscope they are hulking armoured beasts, with eight legs and massive rhino-like necks, which makes them superbly equipped for life inside our pillows.

Their feet have flared pads, like a creature from *Star Wars*, to prevent them sinking into the soft filling, and since it is hard to see in the dim light, they signal romantic availability not by crude bellowing calls, but by the polite release of a floating vapour.

The insect swivels its huge neck to get a directional fix, and then, as gracefully and balletically as an armoured monster can, trundles hopefully forward for the trysts that await, to produce yet more of these generations that live beneath us, microscopically nibbling our loose skin flakes.

Their population can be as low as 10,000 in ultra-hygienic homes, but if this is the house where busy professionals only change the pillowcases, but neglect to rinse, soak, boil or simply wash the pillow itself, then the inhabitants can be discreetly fruitful and multiply for weeks, months or years.

In homes like this, each pillow might be home to 400,000 or more creatures. And with the half-pint of water vapour we exhale over them every night, they are safely incubated.

In the kitchen, dad opens a bottle of freshly-squeezed orange juice. Some of what's there actually comes from squeezed oranges, but that is pretty expensive stuff, so a lot of it is simply recycled pulp wash, a substance made by spray-blasting otherwise unusable rinds. Since pulp wash on its own tastes as terrible as you'd expect, sugar is added, then some of the active chemical from nail varnish remover, to give the pulp wash a palatable tang, and then varnish solvent, to keep that tang from getting too strong.

To stop the floating mess from breaking apart entirely, a dose of the

**David Bodanis**  
reveals the  
terrifying world of  
microscopic bugs  
and chemicals that  
invade our daily life

embalming fluid formaldehyde — or a chemical near-cousin — goes in: the chemical is ideal at forming tight linking groups between proteins, be it dissolved bits of cadavers or scattered flecks of pulp wash.

The first glasses are drunk contentedly, but the teenage daughter reacts furiously when more is offered her. Don't they realise that she just so happens to be on a diet? The mother tries to ignore the outburst, but several hundred nanograms of the peptide hormone ACTH are likely to be cascading down from her brain, in a reverberating response to her daughter's flare-up. This can upset her immune system for hours, making her more susceptible to cold viruses or other microbial assaults.

The baby, meanwhile, is sitting on the carpet and investigating his sister's leather jacket, which is coated with thousands of cotinine molecules, residue from the cigarettes she smoked the evening before. The molecules bounce off the leather into the air and float into the sniffling baby's lungs. Some of the molecules will pass into his bloodstream and end up, months hence, stored in his growing hair. The carpet beneath him is densely impregnated with hairs, skin flakes, textile fibres, fragments of dead insects, pollen, bacteria and millions of particles of month-old cat saliva.

Blissfully unaware of this microscopic jungle, the family gathers itself for a trip to the shops. Outside the shopping centre now — the daughter lagging ostentatiously behind — where solar photons which were speeding through space at the orbit of Venus just two and a half minutes ago crash on to the family. Everyone's mood unexpectedly goes up, for the crash-impacting photons stimulate their endorphin levels to rise.

The family is likely to be greeted by tiles at the entry, which makes them speed up, but then there might be

carpets once they are in store, which makes them slow down. They are also likely to wear to the right — which is why shopping centre owners can charge higher rates on that side.

The son takes out a stick of chewing gum as he browses. Chewing gum has to be made of substances soft enough for chewing — Vaseline, lard or beef tallow are commonly in there — and trap them in a bouncy rubber matrix. To stop unpleasant leakages, bits of children's glue are mixed in, along with dollops of sticky soap, or even polyethylene — the stuff that makes up plastic bags.

The parents pause at a food shop, eager to drink a liquid mash that plants evolved to fatally over-accelerate the neurotransmitters in ancient bulge-eyed insects. It is coffee, of course. When a non-dairy creamer is stirred in, it becomes attractively white as it is poured out. This is guaranteed by manufacturers mixing in titanium dioxide. It is the same whitener that sloshes around in buckets of white latex paint, which is something to think about while sipping coffee outside a DIY store.

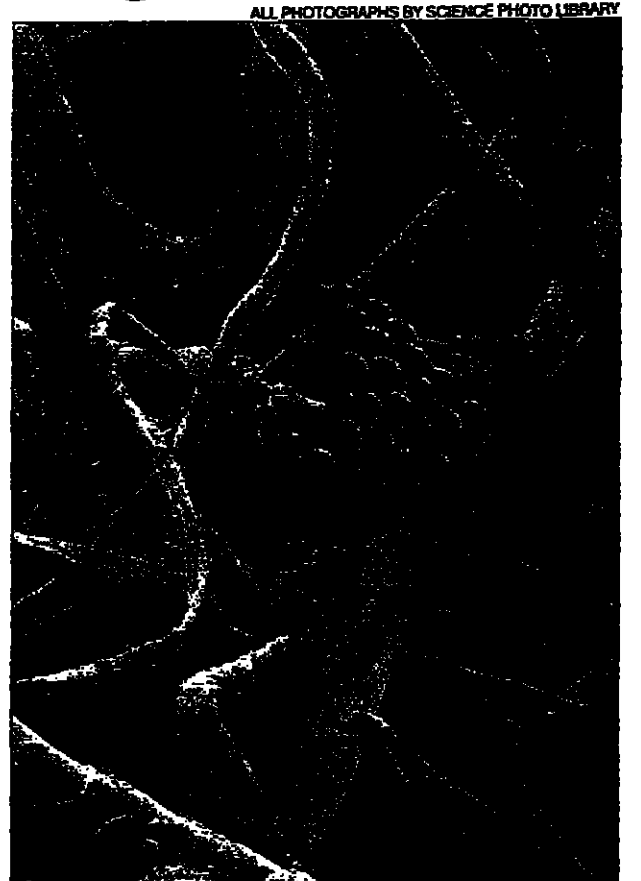
**B**ack home, the tail-thumping dog is desperate to greet the returning family. If there is a big sloppy kiss — and who can resist? — then several squirming *Entamoeba gingivalis* predators that live in the mouth of 50 per cent of domestic dogs will be transferred over. These can survive for days or weeks in your mouth, squirming around our gums for their live bacterial prey.

Along the way there is likely to be a squelching *Alien-like* expulsion, as up to 16 baby amoebae emerge from each one. Most of the babies quickly battle each other to the death, or simply free fall from where they try to cling on to us and, with a barely noticed gulp, they are swallowed.

The day is over, so it is up to bed. While dad turns the thermostat nice and high — ideal for boosting the pillow-mite population — mum helps her son fluff up his pillow. Each whacking compression shoots geysers of dust mite body parts into the room and they float down over the boy all night in allergy-inducing haze.

There is more to do, but the parents are tired. They climb the stairs to sleep, and to dream.

© *The Secret Family*, by David Bodanis, published by Simon & Schuster (£18.99).



Household dust is rich in hairs, skin flakes and fibres from clothing and furniture. At the centre of the electron micrograph is a fragment of an insect's compound eye



Orange juice is often seen as an antidote to colds but while the vitamin C crystals of ascorbic acid dissolve in the human body, most of them float to the bladder

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For those who nose.



Sir Nicholas Goodison with Sue Jackson and some of her automata in the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. "They should be seen as works of art"

## Playtime for grown-ups

**S**ir Nicholas Goodison's outwardly patrician manner conceals an almost boyish enthusiasm for mechanical toys. It is a lifelong interest that regularly lures the deputy chairman of Lloyds TSB and former chairman of the Stock Exchange into an unusual establishment in the heart of Covent Garden.

Sue Jackson's Cabaret Mechanical Theatre exhibits and sells automata — the intricate, ingenious and often wickedly humorous mechanical toys of which Sir Nicholas is a leading collector. "They are extremely colourful, very amusing and provide a lot of fun," he enthuses. "When you have people to dinner, they love to play with them."

Sir Nicholas bought his first one when he was 19 and serving in the Army in Germany. He now has 900, from pecking hens and cone puppets to designs by such leading British craftsmen as

Paul Spooner, Peter Markey, Keith Newstead and Ron Fuller.

Many were acquired through Ms Jackson, who originally opened a craft shop in Falmouth, where she started exhibiting the work of Peter Markey and Paul Spooner in 1985. "I don't like the words art and craft, shop, exhibition or museum — I wanted to create a place where everybody could just come and have fun," she says.

Although there is an admission charge, Ms Jackson insists it is not a money-making venture, but a labour of love. She recently had to sell two prized originals to an American collector for £27,000 to keep going; most pieces range in price from £15 to £1,500.

"I always recommend visitors to London to come here because it is one of those

wonderful unsung places that are a joy to discover," says Sir Nicholas, who admits that although he often comes just to look round, he usually ends up buying something.

On this occasion he parts with £865 for the latest annual Paul Spooner limited edition — a suggestive piece entitled The Green Ball and described as "a woman having a nice time with her washing machine". As the handle is turned, the wooden mechanism makes the machine spin in a most realistic way until a green ball is thrown from the front.

"The flow and the sequence of the movements are what make it so clever," says Sir Nicholas. "And the wry humour is typical of Spooner."

Pausing to chuckle over Ron Fuller's lifetime ticket collector, who automatically stamps your ticket on the door, he enters the museum section to

point out some of his other favourite pieces.

Keith Newstead works in metal and his peacock, which cocks its head and fans its tailfeathers in a lifelike manner, is much admired. It was his flying dragon, the original of which has pride of place in the window, that convinced Sir Nicholas to exceed his price limit some years ago when he paid £300 for it.

He says: "Until then, my ceiling had been £50. The dragon was one of the first things Newstead made, and the way he articulated the whole body marked him out as a man of genius."

He is also a great admirer of Peter Markey's wooden wave machines, which recreate an ocean swell using a series of complex wooden gears. Sir Nicholas bought one of his

larger pieces and donated it to the National Museum of Wales, where it is displayed in the foyer. A lifelike golden eagle and a gannet were donated to the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood after he commissioned them from artist Roy Hewson, only to find that they were too big for his house.

Sir Nicholas's love of art has always been linked with his business interests, and he is currently chairman of the Courtauld Institute, the Crafts Council and the National Art Collections Fund, the independent charity that raises more than £2.5 million a year to help museums and galleries buy works of art.

One of the first things he did after taking over at Lloyds TSB was to fill the building with works of 20th-century British art, much of it by young artists. "When I arrived, the offices were third-rate, like a station waiting room," he recalls. "I wanted visitors to go away feeling that this was a company of quality and style."

He has also published scholarly articles on the history of furniture, clocks and barometers as well as writing books on Ormolu, the work of Matthew Boulton, and English barometers 1680-1950.

Automata, he insists, should be viewed as works of art and not just novelties. "I don't know why there is this assumption that toys are only for children," he says, admiring a miniature that features a mouse taking a piece of cheese from a trap just before it snaps shut. "Some of these pieces are so delicate that you could not let children play with them very often — well, maybe only grown-up children."

### MICHAEL CABLE

● Cabaret Mechanical Theatre, 32/34 The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-379 7961). Open Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm, Sun 11am-7pm. Admission: £1.95 (children and students, £1.20)

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## Bags of class

### BRIEFCASES

IT HAS to be bomb-proof and beautiful; cool and stylish and totally practical: it has to be strong enough to carry the boring things, big enough to carry the important things and small enough to go through a revolving door without making you look ridiculous.

In short, it's tough being a briefcase. And with the variety of styles and designs available, it's getting tougher to choose one. The rule is you can have only one — a briefcase is not a handbag. Two briefcases says you are trying to impress the wrong people. Three is carelessness.

Black is safe: looks sharp beside a suit and won't raise

doubts about your reliability in bank-like circles. But black is the kiss-of-death for your carefully casual dress-down Friday look of tweed jacket, chinos and deck shoes. Brown is a tricky colour — there are browns and browns, and some of them are closet yellows.

The colour rule is simple: if you can't spill an espresso on it without staining, the colour is too light. Any colour except black or brown and it's not a briefcase. It's some kind of rucksack.

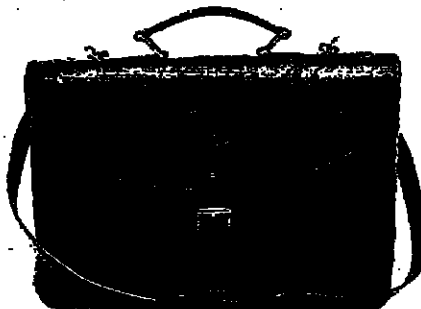
So, you've agonised over the colour, now you must choose a style — and answer

another practical question: will you want to be able to sit on your briefcase? If the answer is yes, go for something rugged. But if you can generally find a chair, consider one of the soft-sided attaché-case briefcases.

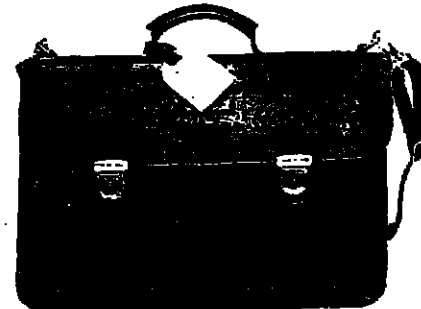
Material? You can choose from rubber, canvas, aluminium, nylon and good old-fashioned leather, which smells nice (an oft-forgotten virtue in crowded commuting conditions) and it just gets cooler and more beautiful with time, as it collects scuffs, scars and wrinkles — just like its owner.

ANGUS CLARK

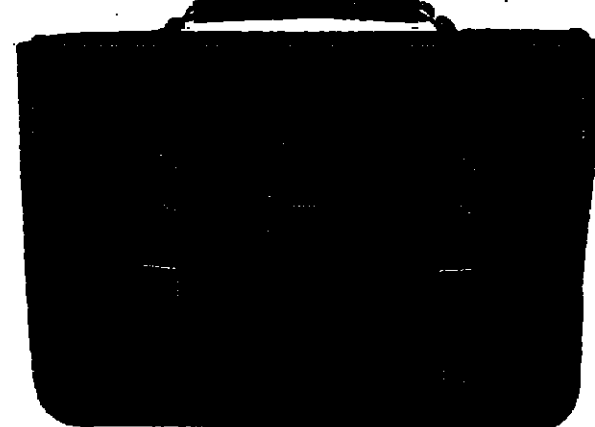
Photographs: Des Jensen  
Research: Jennifer Röggberg



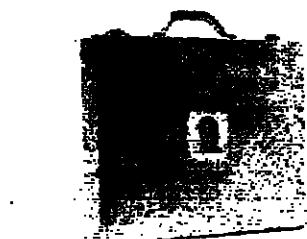
ABOVE: Mulberry's Riley briefcase, £360, in walnut leather, has separate compartments to maintain order, and a soft leather handle and shoulder strap (0171-491 4323)



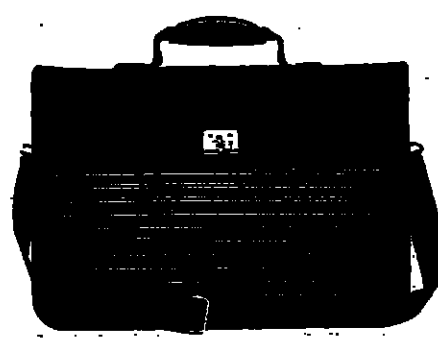
ABOVE: Black leather briefcase, £375, from Ermengildo Zegna (0171-493 4471) with padded nylon strap and wooden nametag. Has two practical zip front-pockets



LEFT: Brown leather briefcase from Dr Martens, £110, for the tough young executive. Has two front closures and a shoulder strap (01933 419853)

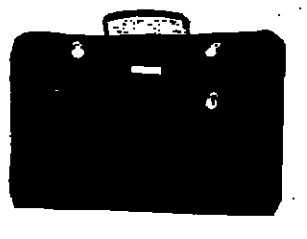
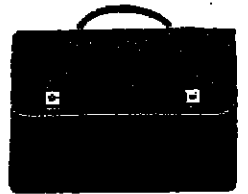


ABOVE: Paperchase's brushed aluminium portfolio, £75, looks very cool, and has a square photograph inset (0171-580 8495)



ABOVE: Amani's black briefcase, £589, in shiny leather. At Harrods (0171-730 1234)

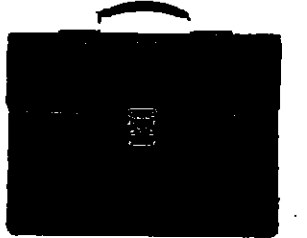
RIGHT: At £1,850, the Hermès tan Danube briefcase is worth holding on to; it has a classic shape and is crafted from fine leather (0171-823 1014)



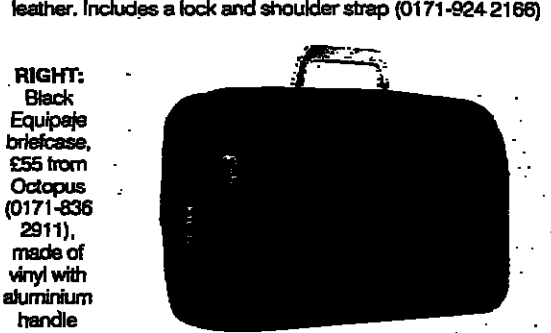
ABOVE: Black nylon briefcase, £13.50 from Paperchase (as above), has two compartments



ABOVE: Portfolio, £129, from Bric's UK in tan and brown leather. Includes a lock and shoulder strap (0171-924 2166)



ABOVE: Dark brown Louis Vuitton (0800 993304) briefcase, £710, with two compartments



RIGHT: Black Equipe briefcase, £55 from Octopus (0171-636 2911), made of vinyl with aluminium handle

### GADGETS

WHEN YOU are travelling you can miss some luxuries, like waking up to the sound of music on the radio. Lexon's Voyageur is not only tiny, it also boasts an FM radio in stereo. Built into its own travelling box,

the shape of a regular spectacle case, it has an extendable aerial and two large buttons for volume and tuning. The radio criss on the

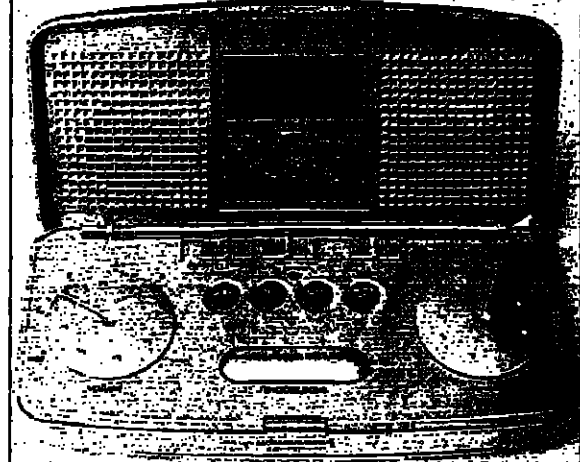
tinny side but is a marvel of design nonetheless. You also get an AM radio should decent FM stereo reception be too much to hope for wherever you lay your head.

Most of us carry a camera or camcorder with us when we go on holiday, but once you start adding secondary equipment like tripods you can quickly turn into a heavily-laden one-man film crew worthy of one of Michael Palin's globetrotters. Mini Stativ is a sensational flexible tripod just three inches high.

It is small enough to slip into the tiniest backpack yet robust enough to fix equipment for steady or timed shots.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Lexon's Voyageur costs £39.99 from Business & Gifts Ltd (01372 376554) for stockists; Mini Stativ, £4.99 from The Leading Edge (0171-499 7891).



The tiny Voyageur radio is a marvel of stylish design

### BARGAINS

There are bargains to be had all over the country. With £100, what would you buy?

FORREST & Co in London's East End specialises in auctioning household and office items on behalf of county courts and bailiffs.

Beside the polished chrome and velvet dining suites, and the nouveau ceramics, there is old mahogany furniture and other genuine antiques.

I bought a wicker laundry basket, a carved trunk and a quantity of theatrical ware (c. 1940) for £28; a small oak wardrobe for £10; 180 various CD singles for £18; an antique Persian carpet for £16; a Marconi Bakelite radio and a Bakelite telephone for £28.

VICTORIA O'BRIEN  
● Forrest & Co Ltd, 17-13 Gibbons Road, London E15 2HU (0171-534 2331) has sales every other Thursday. Viewing: day before sale 10am-5pm and morning of sale, from 10am.



# Softness is next to manliness



**ABOVE:** Chocolate, beige and rust fine-knit sweater, £105, Katharine Hamnett, SW1 (0171-823 1002). Stone moleskin jeans, £29.99, River Island (0181-998 8822). **ABOVE RIGHT:** Angora sweater, £275, Nigel Curtiss, Browns (0171-491 7833); Camel cotton jeans, £150, Helmut Lang, Browns and Harvey Nichols (0171-584 0011). **RIGHT:** Animal-print sweater, £155, Eliot, Browns, as before. Dark brown moleskin jacket, £100, and matching trousers, £49.99, River Island, as before.

This means that it is not only golfers who are seen in their diamond patterns and

**LISA GRAINGER**

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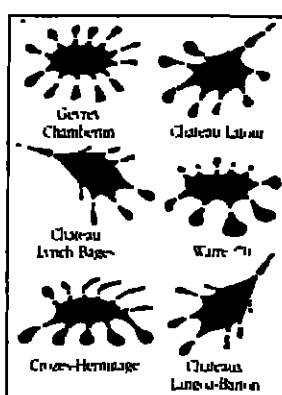
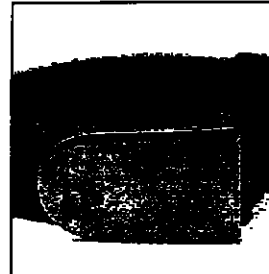
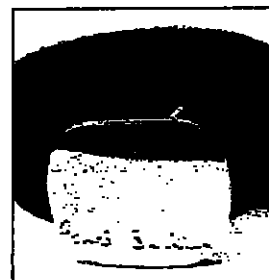
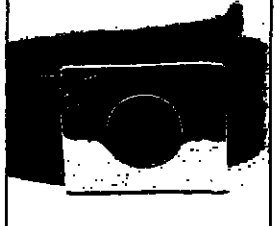
Photographs by **Richard Burns**  
and **Chris Harris**  
Grooming by **Sally Kvælheim** for  
Jo Hansford (0171-863 2236)  
Styling by **Amandip Uppal**



**LEFT:** Khaki, dark green and blue sweater, £120. Katharine Hamnett, as before. Deep blue jeans, £100. Byblos. Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)

**ABOVE:** Multicoloured striped cashmere sweater, £385, Clements Ribeiro, Browns, as before

(U181-363 1711)



The amazing Drop Stop makes it impossible for a single drop of wine to escape down your wine bottle after pouring. Roll up a Drop Stop, slip it into the bottle and enjoy every drop. From Tesco, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and other good stores everywhere. Around £7 for roll.

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'Although my son's birthday falls at roughly the same time every year, it always comes as the most tremendous surprise to me'

My son and I are just about to embark upon our seventh year of life together (eighth, really, I suppose, if you count, as I tend to, *The Time He Spent Inside*), and it occurs to me that after all these years I have still not learnt to look any further into the future than the next minute.

The lack of this useful skill has certainly contributed to the thwarting of my life's ambitions (I was at college with a fellow who was admirably rumoured to have his entire career mapped out in easily achievable stages on a flow-chart, whatever that may be). Over the years I have failed successfully to become a ballet dancer, a veterinary surgeon, a simultaneous translator, an academic and a biographer.

But despite this fearful catalogue of missed opportunity, it is in life with Alexander that my inability to anticipate is still most shamefully visible: Good gracious, I seem to be expecting a baby. Crickey, what is that stabbing pain in my middle? Oh, I see, now I am *having* the baby. Crash. Oh, look, he has learnt to crawl. Sizzle. And get his finger quite a long way inside the electric socket.

And now, blow me down, his birthday

has come round again. This event, though it falls at roughly the same time every year, always comes as the most tremendous surprise to me. About a week beforehand, when the postman starts delivering immense jiffy bags full of lavish presents from comparative strangers, I suddenly realise that I have made no preparations of any kind, and fall into a useless frenzy of guilt and self-reproach because I am a terrible mother with a heart of stone.

It was easier when he was tiny. In those days, I would buy a large quantity of champagne, and make an airy sponge cake with a candle in the middle of it, and invite my friends round. We would sit around the Moses basket, consuming the cake and the champagne and admiring the infant sleeping sweetly in his Bonpoint pyjamas. No pass the parcel, no party bags full of disgusting lollipops. No one threw up because they had eaten too much cake, and only one or two of them burst into tears at the end because

they were tired and wanted to go home.

But then, while he was still in nappies, the spectre of the children's party began to haunt me. Little moppets with legs too wobbly to hold them upright would send Alexander engraved invitations to come and celebrate their anniversaries. And so we would take ourselves off to spend a couple of hours in a cavernous drawing-room where, amid hideous wails of terror and dismay from the infant guests, magicians and clowns would turn up in motley garb and do their squeaky voices and make their jokes and pull rabbits out of the birthday girl's tiny ear.

The organisation and expense of these

## LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

occasions exceeded by far anything that Caligula could have devised. I thought they were perfectly horrible, and said so to Jessica, whom I had known rather well in the years when we were both childfree and had social lives, and had reckoned to be a kindred spirit.

"I am simply not going to participate in this absurd cargo system, where Sybil has to have live elephants at her party because Georgie had fire-eaters at his, and Sophie's mummy is flying over the Moscow State Circus for the afternoon to perform in a marquee in the back garden. It is vile and ridiculous and... and *uninnocent*," said I, voice rising to a self-righteous shriek.

"OK," said Jessica, coolly. "But if you aren't going to join in, you can't accept the invitations, can you? And then what will Alexander do about friends?"

Oh dear. Because I am *farouche* and, in fact, more or less unsocialised, this aspect of things had not occurred to me. So here I was, about to deprive my poor child of friends, make his schooldays miserable and probably condemn him to spend his adult life as an ornamental hermit — all on some Cromwellian point of principle. The fact that Alexander himself was not, as a toddler, much of a party animal and, when taken to some jolly kiddies' gathering, would look austere around the assembled munchkins and say, loudly and with evident distaste, "I think all these children should go home now", simply made things worse. Obviously, a party would have to be held.

Only, what sort of party? Our house was custom-built, as far as I can tell, for a family of early 19th-century midgits.

There are two rooms up, and two down, and three people constitutes a crowd in any of them. Even if I were to hire Mr E, the arrestingly-named entertainer who seems to have the children's party market pretty well sewn up in our area, he and his funny balloons would fill up the drawing room all by themselves. The children would have to watch from outside, through the front window. As for marquee in the garden — the only kind of circus we could comfortably accommodate in our diminutive patch is a circus of performing fleas.

As I said to Linda, in a hopeless sort of way. What am I to do? She let me swing in the wind long enough to make me resolve that for next year, I would book a London bus, and start assembling party bags 12 months in advance. And then she took charge. Which is why you will find me, next Wednesday afternoon, patrolling Kid-dies Corner in my Darth Vader outfit (Alexander wanted me to go as Princess Leia, but I can't get my hair to do that thing over the ears) prodding with my light sabre any little child who seems not to be enjoying himself...

GILL ALLEN

# Mother's dilemma: whose son is he?

After my son was born in 1994 there was a blank space on his birth certificate under "Name of father". I knew emotionally and irrationally who his father was, but I did not know with scientific certainty and, rather than simply insert my husband's name into the empty space, I embarked on the daunting process of acquiring proof of who the real father was.

There are some things that nobody ever talks about. Even in the confessional, new morality of the Nineties there are still a few taboos, one of which is what scientists call "the frequency of non-paternity". Even in ultra-conservative Switzerland, an analysis of blood samples revealed that this was 1 per cent of the population. In less orderly societies, the figure is believed to be about 4 per cent, with child support agencies suggesting it could be as high as 15 per cent.

In other words, a significant number of men are unknowingly raising children who are not their genetic offspring.

This means that we are all likely to be acquainted with a family in this position, even if we are not aware of it.

The Office of National Statistics has just revealed a

Caroline  
Bridgewood on  
the pain and  
uncertainty of  
not knowing who  
your child's  
father is

dramatic rise in the number of women who do not name a father when they register their child's birth: more than a quarter of a million during the past five years. There is no information about the number of women who take this course because they do not know the identity of the father, but it is likely to be significant.

Given the complex and fluid nature of modern family life, this is not surprising. Relationships are short-lived and fidelity even more so. Couples can opt for separation to deal with their problems and then reunite: women can opt for single parenthood as a positive choice.

When my marriage started to fail and I became unhappy, I drifted into a relationship



Caroline Bridgewood didn't know who was the father of Little Titus — her husband or her lover. She confessed, and divorced. A paternity test later answered her question

with a man who made me happy. Then I became pregnant unexpectedly and was faced with one of life's most difficult moral dilemmas: should I say nothing and let everyone assume that the child was my husband's, or should I own up and face the conse-

quences? After four months of acute anxiety, sleeplessness and the worst physical stress I have ever known, compounded by severe morning sickness, I owned up.

My husband and I separated and subsequently divorced. My lover and I also went our separate ways, although not until after our son was born.

I was astonished by the criticism I encountered for going public. "Shut up and don't rock the boat: that way you'll hurt fewer people" was the most frequent piece of advice. I was going against a long-standing precedent of social behaviour.

In his controversial book *Sperm Wars* (Fourth Estate, 1996), the biologist Robin Banks confirms that, although the female subconscious is programmed to find the optimal genetic material for her offspring, it is also programmed to provide the optimal rearing conditions for them, and this may involve them being raised by someone other than their biological parent. In allowing this to happen, we are getting a better evolutionary and dynamic "result" and avoiding what Banks calls "the disadvantages of infidelity".

This evolutionary need seems to have been built into our morality: none of the women I know who have faced my dilemma have chosen to come clean, and there are more of them that you might expect. The unfaithful, like the poor, are always with us.

Hilarly, a successful and independent businesswoman who became pregnant on the cusp of two relationships, trusted to luck that her son would turn out to be the offspring of her new husband, and, judging by their strong physical likeness, her gamble seems to have paid off. Sarah, the wife of a landowner and for whom divorce would have caused an inheritance nightmare, stayed mum in the face of gossip about the striking resemblance between her youngest child and her constant male companion during the summer before her daughter was born.

Alison, another businesswoman, who was pursuing an affair while trying to conceive

with her husband, hoped for a little "accident" because she was convinced that her lover's offspring would be more attractive than her husband's.

The sister-in-law of another acquaintance was finally found out and is now divorced, but only after an affair lasting seven years and two children fathered by her lover.

Concealing non-paternity is a risky strategy. Better for the marriage, perhaps, but disastrous for the mother-child relationship, which becomes based on a dangerous and potentially devastating lie. And one she might have to keep up for ever.

Every child must be registered within six weeks of its birth, hence the blank space

on Titus's original birth certificate. I had insisted on a formal test for paternity, but this did not take place until he was seven weeks old.

Blood samples are required from father, mother and child, and we opted to be "done" together, making a ghoul-like little family outing to the phlebotomy department of a nearby hospital.

Five weeks later, the result arrived in the form of a letter from a commercial diagnostic laboratory, which can rule out a potential father but not absolutely rule one in. Instead of a "yes" or "no", there was a statistic: the probability of my lover not being the father of my son was four million to one.

My reaction was simple

relief. I could now tell the world what I had suspected since Titus's ultrasound scan, when I saw his father's profile in miniature. I was able to re-register his birth with a full entry, and was reassured by the registrar that this was a more common occurrence than I had imagined.

Knowing the truth has not changed our outward circumstances for the better, nor is paternity testing a process that can be gone through without at best discomfort, and at worst, pain. But my bright, healthy, affectionate and charming son compensates for all the anguish. And so does the knowledge that I will have told him the truth.

Names have been changed.

## THE TEST

There are a handful of laboratories offering paternity testing, some handling about 10,000 cases a year (and numbers are rising). Your GP can tell you the nearest. You contact the laboratory direct to arrange for forms to be completed and blood taken. A passport photograph of all parties is required. The cost is about £500 for testing mother, baby and putative father. A report is sent two to three weeks after the test.

For further information, contact Customer Services at Cellmark Diagnostics on 01235 528609.

## CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE FACED THE LOVE CHILD PROBLEM



The heiress Sita White with her four-year-old daughter Tyrian



Iqbal Khan: had refused a blood test



Potative fathers: Sylvester Stallone and Tom Jones

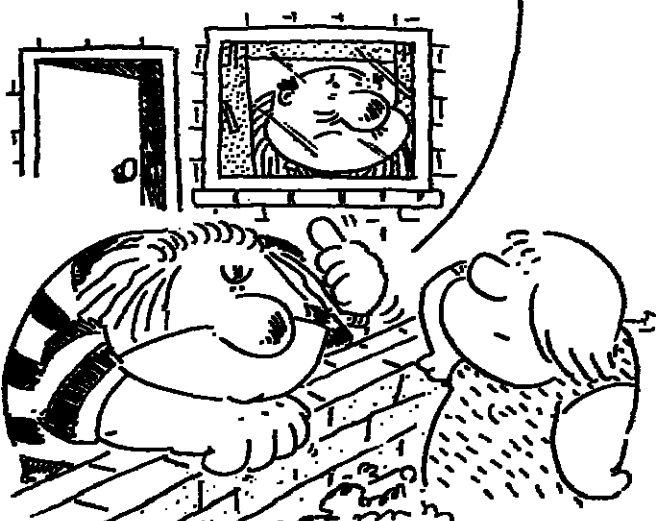


A BLOOD test could reveal whether Iqbal Khan, the former Pakistani cricketer, is the father of Sita White's daughter Tyrian, but he has recently admitted paternity.



Sir Paul McCartney: denied fathering a child

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# When non-smokers are a drag

In the light of  
Tony Blair's tobacco  
sponsorship debacle,  
Bernard Levin  
leaps to the  
defence of smokers



And now, I think, it is time to say something for the smokers. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that they are being persecuted, almost worse than persecuted, and if you think that that is an exaggeration, just think of the men — and women — who have been sacked for smoking. And I do not mean just the smokers who break the rules: I mean the ones who keep to the rules, yet find themselves out of a job. (Yes, that does happen, and the innocent smokers are treated as though they were the baddies.)

Now if a Moon-man came down to Earth, he would, wagging his peculiar ears, look around for human beings. He would already know what we look like, and he also would now know many of the things the human beings do.

For instance, human beings like to be warm, not cold, and dry, not wet. So far, so good. But then our Moon-men begin to scratch their heads in wonder: to find our human beings wet and cold and shivering. The smokers had been pushed aside.

It was a long time until that great man, Richard Doll, who knew everything about the human body, first spotted the connection with that body and the inhaling of tobacco smoke. (There is the mystery here — I don't think even Professor Doll could elucidate it — the mystery of the vast hundreds of thousands of people who had smoked like chimneys without coming to

any harm.) Come, away from this dandying and playing and mincing and dancing: I am speaking up for people — ordinary, decent, honest people — who like to smoke.

Now, before the howling and yelling gets into gear, allow me to say that I am not a smoker, I have never been a smoker, and I certainly am not going to become a smoker.

My grandfather smoked at least a dozen every day (and he lived to be 97), and my mother had a puff or two in a month. There is a photograph of me with a cigarette in my mouth, but closer examination shows that it is held the wrong way and presumably not burning. No, I am no smoker and I thank my stars that I am not.

I have repeatedly pointed out the appalling cowardice of the United States. No, I am not talking about the Americans in war, who were all as brave as any fighter, it is the more delicate fighting.

And only a few months ago there

was a supreme example, almost certainly never to be beaten. The American tobacco firms all got together and gave away, gave it all away. And what was the sum, unbelievable sum, that was thrown up and torn into pieces? It was, in American numbering, three hundred billion dollars, or in the British tongue, one hundred and eighty-five billion pounds.

Now there can be only a few people — almost all very old — who do not know the danger of smoking. Some, the older ones, shrug and say that their years are sliding away and it doesn't matter; others take the bravado path and say they are immune; again, others say that God will help them, or that the dangers are not so great as others say they are.

There are, of course, many in the United States (and nowadays more and more in Britain), who demand payment even if there is nothing to pay for — that is, knowing the danger of the smoke and then complaining about a sore throat.

Before the great crash of billions leaping styles, there were a few cases in which the tobaccoists fought and won. The most remarkable was one in which the plaintiff was dead — from smoking — and his family lost the case. I think that that must have been the last of the single fights, and the last words in the story were, "I don't know how people in the industry sleep at night".

But let us look not just at those millions and billions: let us look at a few people who smoke, knowing the danger. Outside this very building there is something like a mournful gathering, a daily gathering that might resemble a group of people coming back from a funeral.

The gathering runs round almost all the building, and all the way around there are people leaning on the brickwork to smoke. Cold, rainy, windy, there is nothing to break the nastiness. And I say that that is not good enough for decent people.

As I said, the Americans were, and always are, the first to run away. In Washington you can see signs reading "No smoking in this entrance", and it goes further: they are now about to bring in laws which would confine the smokers to fifty feet away from any doorway (hence, the name is tobacco) — finally putting the smoker on the pavement. And believe it or not, the pavement smoker must be walking all the time he smokes.

You think that such madness could never take root in Britain? You are wrong. Try Kleinwort Benson for one (I never did like the cut of their job), which "allows smoking in the office only after 6pm, has no designated room, and bans its staff from smoking near the building". And now the PM is



Many office workers have to stand outside buildings, often in rain, to smoke — "And I say that that is not good enough for decent people"

being accused of poisoning the country, with headlines reading "Blair accused of wrecking tobacco ban". Next, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, is trying to ban smoking in pubs. In pubs!

It gets worse. And worse. And worse still. Take this idiotic exchange with the Health Secretary, Mr. Dobson. Models who smoke cigarettes on the catwalk were condemned as "disgusting". He said models such as Claudia Schiffer (one of the most beautiful ladies alive), who had been photographed holding a cigarette even though she does not smoke,

were sending the wrong message.

No, Mr. Dobson, you are sending the wrong message, and if you had seen the glorious Schiffer close up (I have) you would have the sense to put a bag over your head and keep it there. And, while I'm on the subject, Madame Jeanne Louise Calment — who was the oldest person in the world when she died at the age of 122 — was not only a smoker, but would have died with a fag in her mouth had she not had to give up just because she could no longer light up without help, and was too proud to take help.

What is this madness that has

swept America and is about to sweep Britain if we let it? I should point out that the French and even the Germans would think us crazy, and the Spaniards were puffing when the world was still a baby. (The Japanese beat the lot of us by hundreds of years, and good luck to them.)

By now there can be no man or woman alive who does not know the danger of smoking. The Dobsons and their kind try to claim that all smokers are in peril if they take a single puff, when in truth the number of serious smoke-killers is happily small.

Moreover, the smoker is cursed and shovelled and even spat upon, and he becomes a kind of football, put out for kicking. But why? It is very easy to keep out of smoking areas, and in any case most of the smoking areas are just showing off. And, as our Science Editor makes clear, the chance of a non-smoker getting lung cancer by smoking is one in 10,000. As if the abolition of tobacco advertising would change anything!

Go away, you frighteners, and if you don't shut up I shall get an enormous pipe and pretend I am smoking it.

## Family life on the ocean wave

For most of us, messing about in boats means hiring a pedalo on a quiet Sunday afternoon at the lake in the local park: it does not entail spending several years constructing your own craft and then sailing it across the Atlantic.

But that's exactly what some people are doing. Last week two brothers, Edward and Matthew Boreham, had to be rescued from the middle of the Atlantic after the power supply in their homebuilt rowing-boat failed. And next spring Helen and Jeff Hall from Bath will take their two sons on a

Taking children  
to sea for two  
years requires  
skill and guts

two-year cruise round the West Indies in a catamaran it has taken them two and a half painstaking years to construct. Mrs Hall hopes the family isn't attracting interest for the wrong reasons. "The reports about those chaps rowing across the Atlantic were insulting. One of them was a boat-

builder, but the newspapers made their boat sound like something out of a church jumble sale — they put it on a par with knitted recorder covers. I felt the media were doing them down."

She experienced similarly negative feedback when she announced to family and friends that she and her husband planned to sail into the Caribbean sunset taking Jamie, 11, and Alex, 8, out of school for two years in the process. (The children will be educated by their parents following the National Curriculum with CD Rom on the on-board computer. Jamie already dabbles with his knowledge of the Global Positioning System, a hand-held navigational computer.)

The Halls, who have previously spent several years working in the Bahamas, are no strangers to the phenomenon of daring to be different. Early in the 1990s, they defied people's advice and built a house from scratch. Helen happily admits that they are "social misfits". "In all sorts of things, we swim against the tide," she says, with something approaching pride. "Often we've been proved right. We're oddballs. The British are highly conservative and find us off-the-wall. I'm sure people think we shouldn't go on this trip, but we're a strong-willed couple, so they wouldn't say as much. We have a certain cussedness — or perhaps independent spirit would be a nicer way of putting it. We've always done things differently."

Even Alex wants to do things his way. He says: "My friends say they wouldn't want to risk the trip. They say



Helen and Jeff Hall who will set sail next spring for two years in the Caribbean

"what's the point of it? I think that attitude is ridiculous."

Jeff, a man with a mission, thinks nothing of putting in a 12-hour day preparing the boat, but takes time out from the back-breaking work of sanding the hull. He wants to make sure the mighty impressive 36ft-long catamaran is in good shape and, it must be added, holds its resale value of up to £90,000.

Sitting in the cockpit of the vessel (housed in a corrugated-iron barn on a nearby pigfarm), he views the trip partly as a kind of bonding process. "When a storm is blowing, it will bring us closer together to see each other working in stressful as

well as idyllic situations." But he, too, ultimately comes back to the point of not subscribing to the herd mentality. "It's a simpler life when you shed all the dross," he says. "We wanted to do this trip on our own terms. It's something we've looked forward to showing the children. We're saying to them, 'look, you don't have to stay in England all your lives and do a nine-to-five. Don't get stuck in a rut.'"

Helen says: "They'll probably end up doing a nine-to-five and wearing pinstripe suits, but at least they'll have the freedom to choose."

"When we come back, the boys will be unstoppable. They will have such a solid platform of experiences —

practical, academic and philosophical. There's so much more to life than material possessions. The boat is just a means to an end — the end being a way of life that you just can't achieve in Britain."

The Halls might appear impossibly New Age and idealistic, and two years cooped up in a catamaran may seem like a vision of hell on water, but I sneakily admire their dogged attempt to realise a dream.

As we part, I shake Helen's hand and tell her: "Most people wouldn't be brave enough to do something like this." With a smile, she replies: "Or daft enough."

JAMES RAMPTON

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Jeffrey Archer lives in a magnificent two-storey penthouse with views of the Thames

## Elevated to the high life

Celebrities enjoy the security and privacy of a penthouse — and the stunning views, says Christine Webb

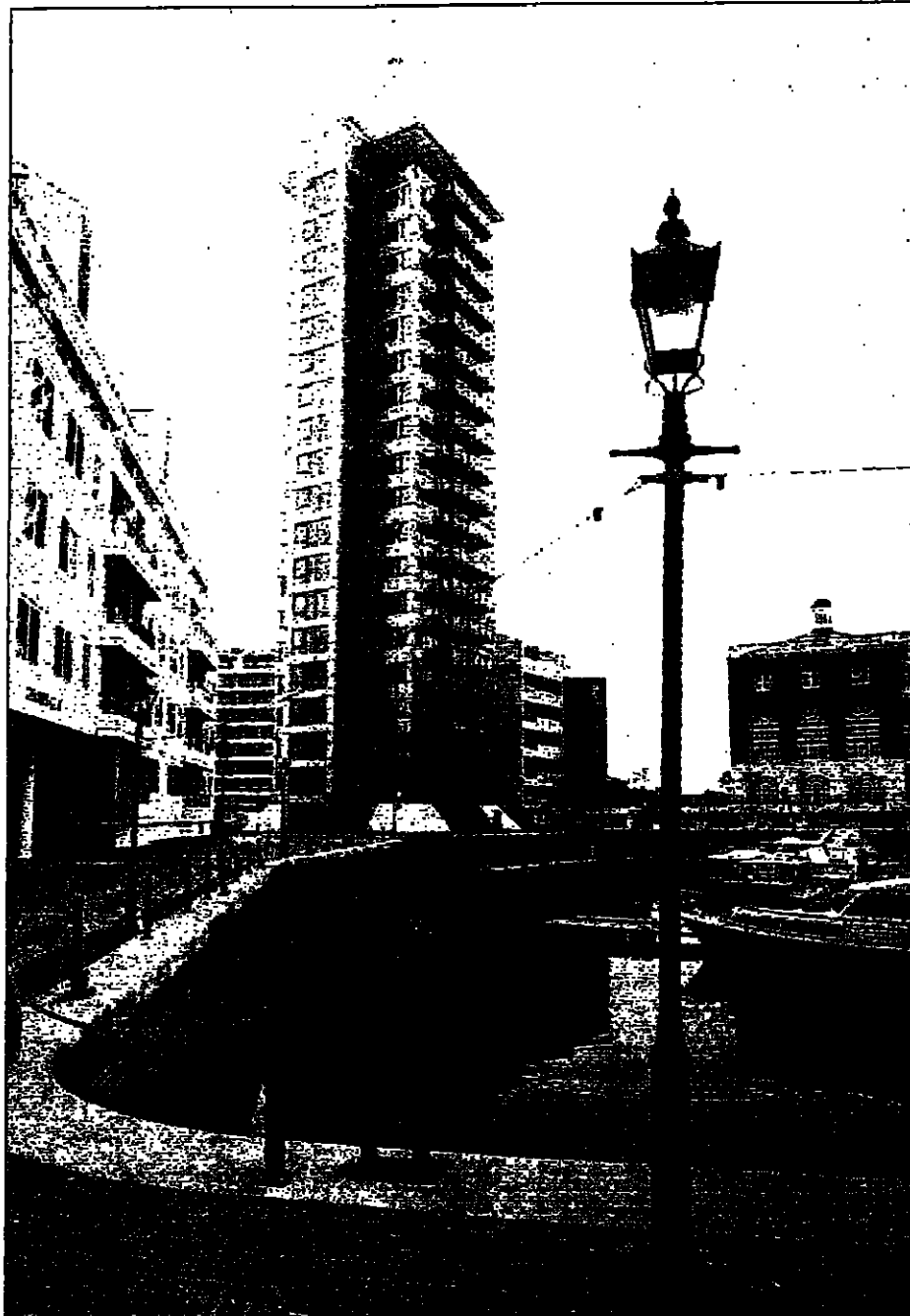
When Ringo Starr bought a penthouse flat in Chelsea as his London perch earlier this year, he was following a trend in celebrity lifestyles. A penthouse offers wonderful views, generous living space and, most important of all for a celebrity, privacy. Most also have secure underground parking from which the owner can walk to a lift and press a priority button which will ensure he is whisked up to his floor without stopping.

Football Club, is reported to be moving into a new penthouse built on the team's home ground at Stamford Bridge. In June, Spice Girl Mel B was said to have fallen in love with a penthouse apartment in The Village, Battersea, but lost out even though she made an offer on the £575,000 three-bedroom flat. She is since said to have fallen for Michael Caine's £2 million Oxfordshire mansion.



Tall storeys help you rise above it all: Michael Caine, left, has a flat in a high-rise block at Chelsea Harbour

There is good news for those who want to go up in the world: the number of penthouses in London is also rising, as developers with an eye to the premiums they command are adding new ones to the top of existing blocks of both flats and offices. The most expensive of these are at Fountain House in Park Lane, Mayfair, where four substantial apartments were built on top of an existing block, the final one of which has just been sold through Wetherell for £4.5 million. First Penthouse has come up with a nifty way of hoisting an extra prefabricated floor on top of blocks of offices or flats



in 12 hours flat. This causes minimal disruption to occupants, and can bring them other benefits, says spokesman Simon Dawkins. "We use timber-framed modules designed in London and pre-built in a Swedish factory, now made possible by the strong pound. We test them in the factory, right down to whether the toilets flush properly. Then they are broken up and shipped over here and we lift them off the trucks on to the roof in a day. They are light but strong — they have to be stronger than conventional structures to withstand the journey." The company is also adding

five penthouses to Albert Court, next to the Albert Hall, which will be completed next year. These apartments, which have CCTV security plus portage, are about £1.8 million through Knight Frank and Hamptons International. Another development is at St John's Wood Court, opposite Lord's cricket ground, where the company has built three penthouses and is adding another four. The first will be ready for occupation by Christmas, priced at £795,000, plus £30,000 for a parking space. Michael Wilson, architect

and developer, has used a similar idea at Parkview Court, building 13 luxury penthouses, three of them duplex, on top of a five-storey mansion block on the southern end of the Fulham Road. One is still available through Hamptons at £300,000. Galliard Homes has been adding floors to existing London warehouse and office blocks for four years, and in September released for sale 24 penthouses on the new eleventh and twelfth floors of the old Shell building in Lambeth, which it is calling the White House. All have terraces, and the flats range in price from £530,000 to £1.5 million. Here,

offices have been transformed into 397 apartments. "As long as there are lifts, the higher you go in a block, the more expensive the apartments," says Roy Conway of Galliard. "There are no problems adding on to existing buildings so long as you do it at the same time as converting the rest of the building, otherwise you delay occupation on the lower floors." The company has built a floor atop Great Jubilee Wharf as well, for around £540,000. This is an 18th-century warehouse it is converting at Wapping Wall, where four penthouses have been created, all of which have roof terraces

and river views. It has also added just one magnificent penthouse to the Little Adelphi building, near Covent Garden, which it has converted from offices into flats. The penthouse has double doors leading on to terraces and is marketed at about £1.85 million by De Groot Collis. Avril Butt, a spokeswoman for the company, says: "There are very few proper penthouses, by which I mean a top-floor flat with good views, a roof terrace on which to laze, some good ceiling heights which may allow for galleries space, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Celebrities love them because they offer privacy and anonymity. When we do get good penthouses they tend to sell quickly." Goldschmidt and Howland, Hampstead, is selling a penthouse that was once occupied by Peter Sellers. The £495,000 two-bed apartment is at Northwood Lodge, in Oakhill Park, just west of Hampstead village. It tops a luxurious block and despite being only six floors up, its large terrace offers such wonderful views across London that it might be on top of the world.

● Goldschmidt and Howland (0171-435 4404; Hamptons (0171-586 9995); Knight Frank (0171-629 8171); Galliard Homes (0181-508 8881); Wetherell (0171-433 6935).

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EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326



# A good bet for millionaires

**Susan Sangster tells Rachel Kelly how she went from pillar to post to turn her house into a fitting home for a family**

When Robert and Susan Sangster bought their seven-bedroom house in Holland Park, west London, four years ago for about £3 million, it was a developer's delight — but hardly the ideal family home. The essentials were in place — 20ft high ceilings, good proportions, and a basement swimming pool — but, in characteristic developer overkill, there were extra pillars in the drawing room, double doors, and far too many chandeliers for Mrs Sangster's understated style.

She knew what was needed to make it a suitable home for her three children and husband Robert, the millionaire racehorse enthusiast, whose father Vernon founded the football pools company. Copies of the *Bloodstock Breeder's Annual Review* are on display in a glass-fronted cabinet in the drawing room.

"The house wasn't to my taste when we bought it," Mrs Sangster says. "I wanted it to be almost like a house in the country."

A year of building and redecoration followed, with the help of the decorator Nina Campbell. "I liked her. I thought she would be very easy to work with — and she was. She made me feel as though the house was mine," Mrs Sangster says. "I thought she wouldn't take the whole house over, and she didn't. For example, if we were choosing fabrics, I might say, 'I liked a particular pattern, and she would say, 'well perhaps this would be even better'."

The ground floor of the house, on the market for £8 million, has a creamy yellow drawing room to the left, knocked through to the back of the house, and a dining room to the right. The floor is covered in slate matting — covered by muted, patterned floral rugs in shades of green, pink, black and beige, bought at auction. The rugs proved the starting point for the drawing room's decorating scheme.

"I wanted it to be the sort of room you could put your feet



Racehorse owner Robert Sangster and wife Susan have put their seven-bedroom house in London's Holland Park on the market at £8 million

## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

up in, and it to not feel too formal." There are comfortable sofas and occasional tables smothered in glamorous family pictures.

Across the hall is a dining room lined in midnight blue Benetton fabric. "I always knew it was only going to be used in the evening, so I decided I would make a virtue of using a dark colour," Mrs Sangster says.

Her favourite room is her *toilet de jour* papered blue-and-white bathroom on the first floor next door to her blue-and-white bedroom, once a dark green billiard room with all the trimmings. The first floor has been given over to a series of interconnecting bedrooms, bathrooms and dressing rooms.

"I've got a television in one of the bedrooms and bath-



Day at the races: Robert and Susan Sangster at Ascot

Mrs Sangster: The bath is in the centre of the room, there is a beautiful fireplace, and the walls are lined with pale cream wooden cupboards, with matching fabric behind chicken wire.

Upstairs is a floor of country-style spare bedrooms and bath-



Floating asset: the secluded basement swimming pool

A lift whisks visitors to the basement, where the Sangsters have made the most profound structural changes. The kitchen was entirely rejigged: now it is a cosy affair on the street side of the house, complete with an Aga.

The utility rooms were tucked under the pavement in what were originally coal holes when the house was built in 1890, and the former utility rooms made into a breakfast room. The changing rooms were re-sited.

"There didn't seem much point to have changing rooms when our bedrooms were upstairs," Mrs Sangster says. "Oh, and I blocked in the wall to the pool, as no one likes being watched when they are swimming."

There is a playroom leading to the small garden at the

back, but then the Sangsters also own a country house.

The only disappointment of their London abode is the rather rusty, rather small swimming pool. "Yes, that room does need decoration," Mrs Sangster admits. And there is no garage, usually a must at this level in the market.

The couple are looking for a Knightsbridge house more convenient for Mr Sangster's office. Mrs Sangster sighs: "I am sad to be leaving."

There is a playroom leading to the small garden at the

## MARKET COMMENT

FOR WEALTHY international buyers who may not be especially familiar with London but know a prime address when they see one, Holland Park is a perfect hunting ground.

In terms of typical priorities, the area offers a wide choice of family homes, good schools and the leafy delights of Holland Park, with Kensington Gardens still within Dalmatian-walking distance. Add to that easy access to the West End and City via the underground's Central Line, a short run out to Heathrow airport — and you begin to smell serious money.

The 19th-century double-fronted villas on Holland Park itself (Addison Road and Holland Villas Road) are among the largest houses in central London, with prices and cachet to match.

They range from 6,000 to 12,000 sq ft (Notting Hill, in contrast, boasts little more than 4,000 sq ft), and on the rare occasions that they come up for sale, can command anything from £5 million (needing attention) to £8 million.

As Roddy Craggs of agent Knight Frank puts it: "There are probably no more than 20 people in London at any one time looking for that kind of house. Only two or three of these homes come up in a year, and they don't suit all

needs." But their rarity ensures a "waiting list". Part of the attraction is the sheer expanse of ground they cover. In a city where space has always been at a premium, some have been split horizontally into vast "mansions", which still fetch £2 to £2.5 million.

"LATERAL living is big news at the moment," says Rupert Fisher of Foxtons. In comparison, the tall, narrow houses north of Holland Park Avenue on, for example, Portland Road and Queensdale Road, are "more suited for professional couples than families because they often only have small patio gardens and prac-

tically every room is on a different floor". Prices there for three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an abundance of entertaining space range from £650,000 to £1.25 million.

Don't even think about Holland Park houses unless you have £500,000 to spend. That might buy you a small mews property, or a brick-fronted family home in the 1960s Woodford Square development — "very good value but not perceived as architecturally beautiful", according to Mr Craggs.

PRICES slip to the north of Holland Park towards North Kensington, around Sirdar Road and St Ann's Road, where you can buy a modernised two-bedroom Victorian terraced house with a garden for as little as £225,000; a four-bedroom house would set you back about £425,000.

The area to the west, bordering Brook Green around Elsham Road, is also good value. Here, a two-bedroom garden flat with a 60ft garden can be had from £180,000, as opposed to £350,000 a little further east in Holland Park — and you get a residents' parking permit for Kensington and Chelsea, says Rupert Fisher of Foxtons.

FAITH GLASGOW

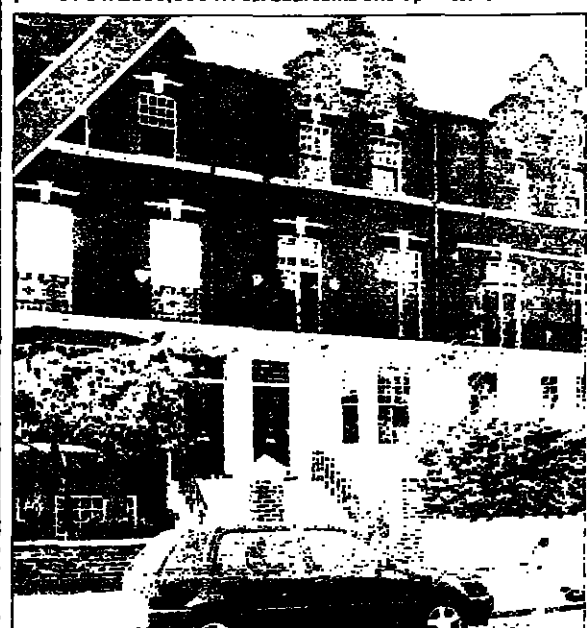
## HOME SWAP

BUYERS PRICED out of Chelsea in west London are looking south of the river in Battersea for better value. Demand for five or six-bedroom Victorian terraced houses around Battersea Park, costing from £350,000 to £750,000, forced prices up 37 per cent in the first half of this year, says estate agent Douglas and Gordon. But with more property on the market, purchasers are no longer prepared to pay inflated prices and values have levelled off.

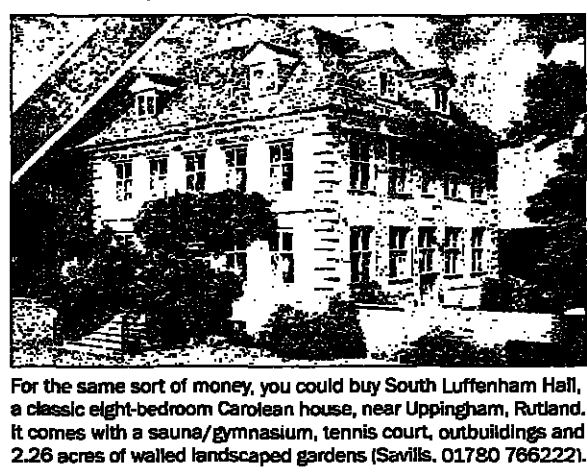
A shortage of good country houses in Lancashire, within commuting distance of Manchester and Liverpool, is keeping prices high, according to Smith Hodgkinson McGinty. Fashionable areas include Longridge, Parbold and Ormskirk, with easy access to the M6 and Manchester airport, where a six-bedroom Georgian rectory in five acres would set you back around £400,000.

Stone cottages in the Forest of Bowland are popular second homes, costing from £80,000 for three bedrooms. With Peterborough only 45 minutes by fast train from King's Cross and a clutch of good schools, Rutland, England's smallest county, is attracting London buyers looking for family homes.

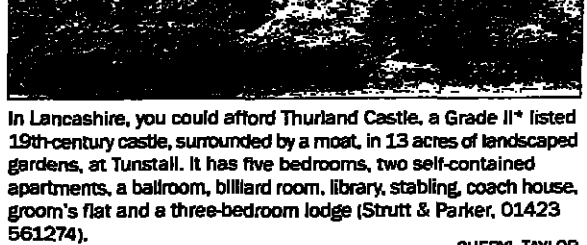
Stonebuilt houses, with up to five bedrooms, costing from £350,000, in villages around Rutland Water and the market towns of Oakham, Uppingham and Dundle, are highly sought-after, despite price gains of 15 per cent this year, says Savills. Large country houses in fox-hunting country around the Vale of Belvoir are also in demand, priced from £500,000 for six bedrooms and up to ten acres.



This five-bedroom Victorian terraced house, with a self-contained one-bedroom basement flat, situated by Albert Bridge with views over Battersea Park, has a price tag of £1.2 million (John D Wood, 0171-228 0174).



For the same sort of money, you could buy South Luffenham Hall, a classic eight-bedroom Georgian house, near Uppingham, Rutland. It comes with a sauna/gymnasium, tennis court, outbuildings and 2.26 acres of walled landscaped gardens (Savills, 01780 766222).



In Lancashire, you could afford Thurland Castle, a Grade II\* listed 15th-century castle, surrounded by a moat, in 13 acres of landscaped gardens, at Tunstall. It has five bedrooms, two self-contained apartments, a ballroom, billiard room, library, stabling, coach house, groom's flat and a three-bedroom lodge (Strutt & Parker, 01423 561274).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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CHANGING TIMES

## RICH PICKINGS AT A GALLOP

Stan Clarke, chairman of Newcastle and Uttoxeter race courses and rags-to-riches millionaire, bought £5 million Dunstall Hall, Staffs (right), in June. He had his first job, as a plumber, at the Grade II listed, ten-bedroom house, which is set in 1,000 acres.



Sheik Al Maktoum, the oil-rich ruler of Dubai and racehorse owner, has a 60-bed room complex (left) near Newmarket racecourse. The £50 million property, built in 1992, overlooks the trainers' track and includes a gymnasium, swimming pool and cinema.



Claire Tomlinson, the leading women's polo player, plans to return to her Georgian farmhouse near Tetbury, Gloucestershire (right) in the next few weeks. The ten-bedroom, £750,000 property, was destroyed by fire last year and has since been rebuilt.













'A swift change in the lottery rules is needed if conservationists are to make the most of the handouts'

The story that follows is happening on my own doorstep, but I would bet my last lottery ticket that it is also happening somewhere near you. It is a tale of dreams come true, magic wands being waved and wishes granted — and it all ending in tears.

I have always been a great supporter of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, indeed all county-based wildlife trusts which derive their income from membership fees, fundraising and modest help from English Nature. Of all conservation groups, they view the landscape with a breadth of vision that more narrowly focused (and richer) charities seem unable to achieve. They do not consider only birds, mammals, the butterflies or the butterflies in isolation but the whole lot of them. Which has to be good news, if you happen to be a hairy but rare spider who has none of the beguiling qualities to elevate you to having a tea-towel marketing scheme dedicated to your survival.

So, over the past couple of years it has been with great delight that I picked up the local newspaper to learn that our wildlife trust, among others, has been on

## Why payouts don't always pay off

the receiving end of some very nice lottery handouts. The total so far is about £1 million, destined to help in the construction of education centres and the purchasing of valuable and endangered sites from under the noses of developers or acquisitive farmers.

Good stuff, you might say. Alas, not so. Along with many others, our wildlife trust is now finding that, although a lottery handout may appear to be a blessing from heaven, it brings a hell of a lot of problems.

For a start, supporters who might have trudged along to a fundraising coffee morning or jumble sale now believe that the few pence they spend is insignificant compared with the huge sums awarded by the lottery, so they no longer bother. Members fail to renew subscriptions, thankful that the lottery has taken over responsibility for the wildlife, and so they need not bother. In our county, donations

are down 25 per cent. It is much the same everywhere.

It gets worse. The money is not necessarily helping the trusts achieve what they were set up to do: conserve nature in all its forms. Our local director, Derek Moore, warns: "We are in danger of creating thousands of white elephants." White elephants, of course, are one type of wildlife whose survival and prolific breeding is never endangered in Britain. Let me explain how they are born. of public money and limited thought.

It is not always understood, even by some wildlife trust supporters, that mere

### DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

ownership of something does not in any way guarantee its survival. Mr Moore points out that conservation requires action: inaction leads only to dereliction. It is all very well to buy 15 acres of water meadow bursting with every form of rare bog plant and insect, but it is another thing making sure it stays that way. It needs to be grazed, for example, which requires it to be fenced, livestock brought in and cared for, access for walkers to be arranged, vandals to be discouraged, neighbours to be negotiated with, weeds to be mown, chemicals avoided. Do none of these

things and you have an overgrown mess, and it will not be long before the first rusty bedstead or broken fridge appears over the fence.

It is not the ownership of the water meadow which will keep it as we wish to see it — and the way the flora and fauna prefer it — but a regular input of labour, both behind a desk in the office and on the land itself.

And this is where the lottery lets wildlife down badly. And why, if there is not a swift change in the rules, much of the money handed out with the best of intentions for conservation will fund nothing more exciting than shabby tracts of countryside in the new millennium.

The problem has been pointed out many times, not least by the performing arts. The lottery is unable, because of its rules, to pay anyone's wages. It can fund

capital projects, such as buying land, but the money cannot be used to employ someone to look after it. "All the money we get," Mr Moore explained to me, "rebounds on the staff. They have more to manage but we have no money to employ any more people to help them. As well as being able to buy the land, we need a framework in which we can keep it going."

I am not certain how it came to be that lottery money should never be allowed into workers' pockets. But who would object nowadays, especially in Mr Blair's people-centred Britain?

Would anyone really complain if it were widely known that the owl warden down at Buttercup Fen was paid for out of lottery money, instead of drawing the dole? If it needed a shepherd to husband a flock of grazing sheep, would you really mind if part of the money was spent on paying him or her?

Nobody is asking for more of the lottery money; just a stroke of the pen, so that wildlife trusts can spend it more sensibly. Otherwise it is like buying a car and flatly refusing to pay for the petrol.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5PU. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.



## Bang goes the old sport

A few years after perfecting the art of the company takeover, and many years on from his childhood in the East End of London, the late Charlie Clore was invited to shoot at Blenheim. On the appointed day, things went well enough, until Clore sent a message to his host ("Bert", the 10th Duke of Marlborough). Would it be possible, Clore asked, for his instructor, a retired major who was acting as a loader, to lunch with the guns rather than the beaters?

"Teaching Clore to eat as well, is he?" Marlborough muttered in response.

A generation on, Clore might have felt more at ease with the new breed of businessmen at shoots. "I have seen one instance of a big deal being done in between two grouse drives," says a north-country landowner. "This chap was selling his milk business for more than £20 million. It went through on the moor."

Once disdainful of Clore and his ilk — often caricatured by the unwelcome shrill of the mobile phone on the moor — the grandees are now more or less equivocal: the gatecrasher, they have concluded, has his uses. He can, for a start, pay the price good shooting demands: £20-£25 a head per pheasant, or £80-£100 per brace of grouse.

Better still, from the landowners' point of view, the Clores of today now unashamedly use their companies as a means by which to mix business with pleasure.

"It can be banks, it can be estate agents who take a day," says the northern landowner. "In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a bank which hasn't taken a corporate day in the past ten years. It's a fabulous way to entertain people. And from our point of view, if you can call it corporate entertainment you can legitimately claim back VAT — 17½ per cent on £10,000, it's worth doing, particularly on a big grouse day."

But today's corporate shoots are different to those of the late-Eighties Porsche-and-braces peak. It is unlikely anyone in the City now can trump the stories such as that told in

### Marcus Scriven reports on the fast-changing world of the corporate shoot

his book *Fiasco* by Frank Partnoy, a former derivatives trader on Wall Street, of how directors of Morgan Stanley treated themselves to a dove shoot in Uruguay.

Deutsche Bank Group, the parent company of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has its own partridge shoot in Spain, said, by some, to be one of the best in the country. The bank also takes on several days' shooting in Britain each year.

It is hard to imagine any landowner belittling the contribution corporate shooting can make to his estate's accounts: indeed, without it, he would be hard-pressed to offer anywhere near as many days' shooting to friends and family.

But there is a price to be paid for having those along who are unfamiliar with the ways of the country shoot. A barrister experienced a memorable corporate day in Bedfordshire recently. "The first drive had some partridge in it," he recalls. "One went out quite low and left. The left-hand gun shot at it, missed, and took out the back window of a Range Rover, which rather surprised the woman sitting inside."

"The gun," he says, "admitted that he would have pretended that it was somebody else, except that was the only shot fired in the entire drive."

Later, there were lots of jokes about putting the Range Rover on the game card. But the barrister adds: "When I was young, you'd have been sent home for that. In these days of corporate shooting, it's just a laugh."

The owner of a comparatively small shoot in Shropshire discovered



The aim is a satisfying bag

ever before, and most of the novices will, like Charles Clore before them, have taken care to receive good instruction (in London, probably at Holland & Holland's shooting grounds at Northwood).

"You've got the old aristocratic brigade," one privileged gun says, "then you've got the bankers who spend hundreds of thousands of pounds; then you've got these little syndicates of the butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker."

Perhaps there is no more vivid exemplar of the first group than Lord Lambton, who returns to Biddick Hall at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, from Tuscany for a few days' sport, wearing his dark glasses and only stirring himself from his shooting sack for a particularly high bird.

But even Lord Lambton, who sometimes seems to have strayed from an Edward St Aubyn novel, has never flinched from making money from shooting, letting Biddick to super-rich tenants such as Alfred Taubman, the owner of Sotheby's. "They don't care what they're charged providing it's good," says one of Lord Lambton's guests.

The over-exuberant shot is nothing new. A septuagenarian recalls a story, doubtless apocryphal, concerning a youthful Lord Forte shooting partridge near London. His performance was said to have been erratic. "The following Monday, there were meant to be six guns, but when he arrived, he was the only one there."

His son, Rocco Forte, by comparison, is considered an excellent shot and an exemplary host — testimony, perhaps, to the power of shooting to affect the perfect evolution, from deal-maker to sportsman, within a generation or two. "He loves it with a passion," says one of his guests. "I think it's the only thing he is passionate about really."

Perhaps the same was true of Sir Charles Clore, who, notwithstanding his experiences at Blenheim, felt assured enough to run his own estate. In the eight years up to and including 1978, 42,595 pheasants were shot on his land in Berkshire. And there, his table manners were his own affair.

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## Is it a man or a mountain?

Alexander Stoddart, one of Scotland's finest monumental sculptors, recently unveiled a two-ton bronze of the Scots philosopher David Hume in the heart of Edinburgh.

But if his next project goes ahead it will dwarf anything he has done before. He plans to create a vast mountain sculpture on the magnificent Ben Brachan massif in the Highlands which will be visible for miles around. The reclining figure of Oscar, dead son of Ossian, a legendary Gaelic warrior poet, will be half a mile long and a quarter of a mile high.

It would cost millions and take up to 50 years to complete, but would be Europe's biggest sculpture and a new wonder of the world on the scale of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, in South

### Scotland may soon have its own Mount Rushmore, Andrew Morgan writes

Dakota, which attracts two million visitors a year.

Ben Cruachan, to the east of Oban, is known as the supreme mountain of Argyll and its granite has a similar density to Mount Rushmore, where the four presidential heads were carved between 1927 and 1941.

Ossian gained renewed fame in Europe in 1762 when the Scottish poet, James Macpherson, published what is claimed to be translations of his 3rd-century poems. Goethe became an admirer, but because of anti-Scotts feeling in England, the poems were deemed fraudulent. London literati found it inconceivable that epic poetry could have



An artist's impression of the son of Ossian sculpture

the question of landowners' permission. Several own the massif and the one owning Stoddart's preferred site says that, while sympathetic, he fears the intrusion.

Dianne Stein, one of Scotland's foremost arts fundraisers, is confident that millions could be put in the hat for such a grand project from lottery and millennium cash and enterprise funding.

The project would take longer than at Mount Rushmore, with its benign climate, where the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, and his team created the 60ft heads of presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

Stoddart says: "I hope to see part of the project completed. The Rushmore sculptor didn't live to see his work completed, but I'd be happy if everything were set up."



Sculptor Alexander Stoddart

### ON THE SPOT: SHAFTESBURY ABBEY

Rural recommendations

The place: in front of the abbey ruins, Shaftesbury, Dorset. The view: from this 700ft hilltop is a panorama of the Vale of Blackmore, with its gently sloping hills and fields. To the left, villages pepper the wooded landscape towards Cranborne Chase and King John's hunting lodge at Toller Royal.

Appeal: scenic walks and surroundings.

Afficionados: locals and visitors passing through the town. Historic interest: the Benedictine Abbey for women, founded by King Alfred in AD 888, was once the largest in southern England. Excavations have revealed carvings and medieval floor tiles. The Stoney Path to the right of the abbey was the route taken by pilgrims. In the 19th century, the thriving button-making cottage industry of Dorset came to a dramatic close with the introduction of machines creating hardship among the locals.

OS ref: SS8/228 on sheet 183.

How to get there: from the A30, follow signs to Shaftesbury. Also nearby: Gold Hill, popular with film-makers and the setting for Hovis advertisements. Seven miles southeast is Sturminster Newton, where Thomas Hardy lived for a time.

DEBORAH KING

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WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

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**Mountain Biking in Cumbria.** With HF Holidays (0181-905 9558). Price £114.

**Make Your Own Christmas Cards.** A weekend of creative paper-making at the Hawkwood College at Stroud in the Cotswolds. (01453 750034). Full-board, £101.

**A Taste of Buddhism: Creative Writing.** At the Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, near Bath. (01761 433709). From £36-£69, inclusive.

**Shubert's 150th Anniversary: Dyslexia, a practical approach.** Both this weekend at Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). All-inclusive, £92.

**Late Autumn Bird Weekend: Improve Your Photography: Watercolours for Near-Beginners.** All this weekend at the Flatford Mill Field Study Centre (01206 208283) at East Bergholt in Constable Country. From £79-£102, inclusive.

**A Writers' Workshop: Christmas Quilling: Straw Lacework: Landscapes in Watercolour.** All this weekend at the Hill Residential College, Aberystwyth, Gwent. (01495 333777). Price £88, inclusive.

**Stepping out for Samaritans: a writing course: Getting the Most from your Portable Computer: Diaghilev and the Ballet Russe: A Taste of Wines from the American Continent: Knotting in Embroidery: Modern Painting Series 2—**

**Post Impressionism.** All this weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295). Price £159 residential, £59 non-residential.

**Silversmithing, Bangles and Spoons: Painting the Fruits of Autumn: Life Drawing: Viol Concert Music.** All this weekend at the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). From £150 residential, £97 non-residential.

**Handbells in Harmony: Winter Landscapes in Watercolour: Christmas Decorations: Natural History Illustration.** All this weekend at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

## DECEMBER 5-7

**Skiing Workshops and Practice.** Get ready for the slopes with a day or a weekend at the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Southampton (01703 892077). Price £45 per day, including equipment.

**Fell Walking Weekends in the Lake District.** With Mountain Goat and Countrywide Holidays (0161-448 7112). From Grasmere to the more remote fells. Accommodation and transport included, prices from £133 per head.

**A Guided Tour of the Universe: The Natural History of Christmas: Reading Latin Documents.** All this weekend at the University

of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, full-board.

**Top-to-Toe Hair and Beauty: Stained Glass Lighting Design.** Three courses this weekend at the Lancashire College, Chorley (01257 260909). Price, all-inclusive, £96.

**We Were Amused, entertainment and leisure in the Victorian era: The Music of Spain.** Two lively courses this weekend at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). From £114.

**Handmade Chocolates for Christmas: A Christmas Bridge Party: Competitive Duplicate Bridge with partners for singles: Painting on Silk: You Too Can Sing.** All this weekend at the Earmley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Price per course, £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

**Folk Music for Fun.** At the Belstead House Education and Conference Centre, Ipswich (01473 686321). From £75-£95, full board.

**The Music of Sibelius: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: Tombs of the Pharaohs.** Courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55806). From £24 per day or £115 per weekend.

**Drawing for the Terrified.** An introductory course at the Alston Hall Residential College, Longridge Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). From £75, full board.

**Life Painting in Oils: Blacksmithing for Beginners: Basic Woodworking and Carpentry.** All this weekend at the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). Prices from £150 residential, £97 non-residential.

**Certified First Aid.** A useful course for families at Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price £112, full-board.

**Arms, Armour and Fortifications of the Middle Ages.** At the University of Oxford, Dept of Continuing Education, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £44.

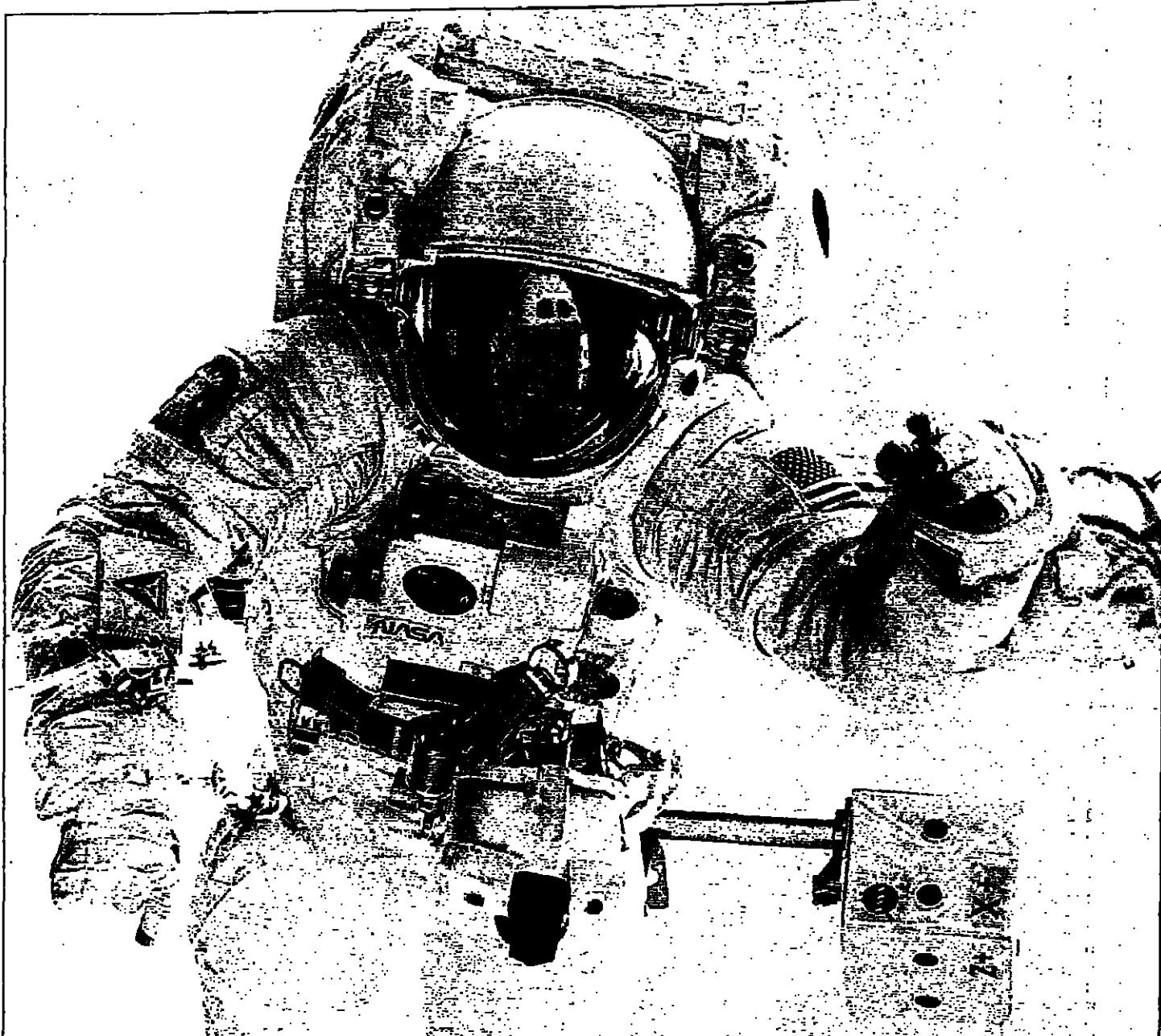
**Christmas Crackers or The Folklore and History of Christmas.** At the Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 6586). Price £98.

**The Bardic Mysteries.** At Hawkwood College, Stroud, Glos (01453 759034). From £111 to £119, inclusive.

**Wine Appreciation: Christmas Walks and Talks: Yoga: Poetry at Christmas.** At the Hill Residential Centre, Aberystwyth (01495 333777). Prices from £88.

**History of Opera, Beginnings and Monteverdi: Japanese Tamari Balls and Chinese Rice Dumplings: The Dracula Myth: Embroidered Caskets.** A varied range of courses this weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295). Prices from £159 residential, £59 non-residential.

**Silk Painting: Academic Drawing in Tone: Calligraphy: Adornment**



Cambridge University is offering a guided tour of the universe. The course, from December 5 to 7, costs £117, including accommodation

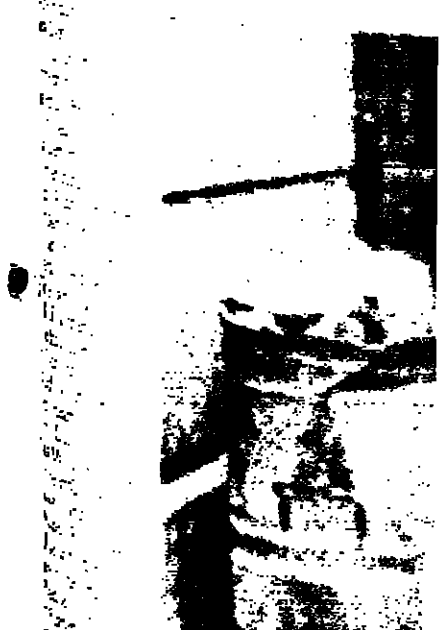


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All too soon those little iguanas, crocodiles and snakes outgrow the spare bedroom, says Carol Price

## Help, my pet python is trying to eat me

Often, when I answer the phone, there'll be some screaming in the background," Sarah Beales says. "The other night it was a man whose 6ft rock python, having bitten him, was trying to coil round and constrict him."

The snake's attack was a feeding response—but it had to go, says Ms Beales, of the Proteus Reptile Rescue, Birmingham.

"In fact, 6ft is quite small for a rock python," she says. "They can grow to more than 20ft and are notoriously temperamental and aggressive."

Unfortunately, this is not the sort of thing that many would-be reptile owners know—or are made aware of—when they first glimpse that cute little hatchling in the pet shop.

Once they discover that the apparently easy pet which never needs walks or elaborate grooming grows and grows—iguana, for example, can expand from 6in to 6ft in five years and have antisocial habits and rather specialised needs—the fun of reptiles and turtles seems to pall.

Hundreds of thousands of reptiles are being discarded every year, presenting a crisis for their rescuers. Proteus alone rescues about 1,000 cold-blooded cast-offs a year from all over the country—be they terrapins from Teesside, Burmese pythons from Scotland or iguanas which have run amok in Cornwall.

One of Proteus's more bizarre acquisitions was Amy the spectacled cayan—a 5ft-long crocodile which had been kept in a Bedford family's spare bedroom for 13 years.

"They were very fond of it, but it had outgrown its tanks and its welcome," Ms Beales says.



Cold-blooded creatures who may not be easy to live with: green iguana, above; pet python, right, cuddles up to the youngest member of the family



FRANK SPOONER

Proteus is keeping Amy in a 500-gallon heated pool, where she dines daily on rats, rabbits and chicks—which you can buy frozen in bags from reptile stores, just like chicken legs.

As expensive guests go, Amy is just one of a never-ending line. "Even when we emphasise that we're completely full," Ms Beales says, "the next morning we'll find a rucksack full of snakes, turtles or lizards dumped on our doorstep."

London Zoo is being similarly inundated. "Hardly a week goes by when we don't get offered reptiles and amphibians," says Dr Heather Hall, the zoo's expert on reptiles and amphibians. "The donors think they're doing us a favour, but we're in the business of conserving species, not rehousing them."

"People don't realise how big things like reptiles and turtles can grow, or how long they can live—well up to 30 years, which outlives their role as children's pets. And their living environment, in terms of heat, light and humidity levels, must be exactly correct, as must their diet, or they will get stressed and sick."

Dr Hall and the Pet Advisory Committee are trying to promote a better understanding of more exotic creatures and their welfare among pet shop stores and managers—many of whom seem ignorant of their needs. Other people seem more interested in

**'Reptiles grow very large and can live for up to 30 years'**

cashing in on a passing trend, with catastrophic results.

"About seven years ago, when the Ninja turtle craze exploded, everybody wanted to buy the equivalent red-eared terrapins from America," Dr Hall says. "They grew from the size of a 10p piece to that of a dinner plate, and became extremely aggressive and voracious."

Fed-up owners then released them into lakes and rivers, even though it's illegal and highly irresponsible.

"Now they are chomping their way through all manner of native species—fish, frogs, ducklings and



ARDEA

Saltwater crocodile, above, in a swimming pool in Darwin, Australia; red-eared terrapin, below, imported from America



Ms Beales also warns against people who call themselves 'reptile rescue agencies' but make a business out of getting unwanted pets free to sell them on. "Too many people think reptiles are pets you can easily replace, should they get sick or tiresome," she says. "It's wrong to think you can keep them properly on the cheap."

She gave a rough estimate of the costs you could expect to pay: "A small lizard might cost £7.50, or a baby python £25, but then you have to buy a decent enclosure that can cost £50 to £200, and spend at least another £100 for a thermostat, ultraviolet lights and fittings plus a heater. Sometimes we get reptiles in with terrible burns just because owners couldn't be bothered to spend £2.50 on a heater guard."

Despite the neglect and ignorance of some owners, both Ms Beales and Dr Hall concede that a great many people do look after their reptiles extremely well. But their success is the result of tremendous effort, education and commitment.

Those who lack the time or will for all three may be better off with something simpler like goldfish—which, thankfully, have never been known to swing off your neck by their teeth.

● Proteus Reptile Rescue (0121-364 6033) offers reptile advice but needs donations to continue its work. London Zoo (0171-722 3333) has leaflets on exotics at £1 each.

## This cat lady wears a dog collar

James Bone meets a one of America's most famous dogs and her posse of rescued cats



Stray cats are rescued in Mr Gonzalez's nightly patrols

The world of Philip Gonzalez is populated by dozens of colourful characters, such as the flirtatious one-eyed, red-head Revlon; the paranoid Vogue; Madame, the deaf snow-white beauty; the crippled Betty Boop; the Count of Monte Cristo, an aristocratic Russian; the monstrous Napoleon; and Prince Philip, who is infected with Aids.

At four every morning and seven every evening, the humble Puerto Rican-born New Yorker makes his rounds of the backstreets of Long Beach, Long Island, to feed 140 stray cats. Those who eat in the backyard of a friendly local house he has given Viking names: Thor, Eric the Red, Osgod and so on. On the wasteland nearby are the painters: Dali, Picasso, Grandma Moses and Peter Max. On the traffic island live the Cowboys and Indians: John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. Then there is the scrub land called Paradise, inhabited by Rhet and Scarlett, Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben and Van Gogh.

Mr Gonzalez, 47, is a grizzled Vietnam veteran who used to practise martial arts until he lost the use of his right arm in an industrial accident. But he has the gentleness of St Francis of Assisi, and the same affinity with the animal world. He lives a simple existence on his modest first-floor flat near the Atlantic Ocean, which he shares with 21 cats and his best friend, Ginny, a dog.

However, Ginny is not just any dog. The straggly little cross-breed, whom Mr Gonzalez saved from an animal shelter, is now one of the most famous dogs in America. Mr Gonzalez sees her as "part

schnauzer, part Siberian husky, part angel from heaven", and credits her with giving him a purpose in life. For Ginny is *The Dog Who Rescues Cats*—the title of Mr Gonzalez's biography of his extraordinary pet, which has just been published in Britain after becoming a bestseller in the United States. Ginny has a remarkable ability to seek out and rescue stray cats, whom she then adopts as though she were a feline herself. It was

Ginny who brought all the cats into her master's life. "I think she was either raised by cats, or maybe in a previous life she was a cat, or she could have been a cat-lady, feeding strays," Mr Gonzalez says. "It really impresses me. She gets extremely persistent when she sees a cat."

In February 1991, a pipe-cutting machine at a building site where he was working nearly chewed off Mr Gonzalez's right arm. No longer able to work, he retreated into himself. Concerned that he was sinking into depression, his neighbour, Sheila Harris, persuaded him to visit the local animal shelter. A dog, she thought, would at least get him out of the house.

The former soldier wanted a "big dog" that other people would envy. Inside a cage he saw what he thought was a German shepherd puppy. The vet informed him, however, that the dog was a year-old mother who had recently been spayed, and was a mixed breed that had already reached its full size. Nevertheless, it was love at first sight. As Mr Gonzalez recalls in

his book: "She had a long, skinny body and thin, crooked legs, which were oddly matched to the broad-shouldered front of her... That dog had the most appealing face I'd ever seen, bright and intelligent and curious and sweet, all at the same time."

Even with a published biography, Ginny's life story will never be fully known. Originally, she belonged to a woman with three children who spent her welfare cheque on drugs. When the woman was evicted from her flat, the landlord found a scruffy, emaciated Ginny locked in the cupboard nursing a litter of three pups. The woman had left the dogs to die. Mr Gonzalez identified with this wounded animal. Like her, he had been badly hurt. Yet she, who had suffered not merely an accident but deliberate human neglect, held no rancour in her heart.

Sitting on his balcony, Mr Gonzalez admits that Ginny changed his life. "I was just staying indoors, really completely depressed, and then I got Ginny and started going out and then saving the cats gave me a purpose," he says. "She saved me. I was her first true rescue."

Not only does Ginny still yap contentedly at his ankles as his cats swarm around his feet, but the gutter above his head is lined with pigeons who know they can depend on him for a meal of dried cat-food. Lurking somewhere nearby are the raccoons and opossums that he also feeds on the balcony at night.

Ginny first revealed her talent for rescuing disabled cats during a walk early one morning. Passing an empty lot, she flew off her lead and ran towards a golden kitten. Instead of mauling the little stray, Ginny started licking it like a mother, making the cat purr happily. At one point, the kitten actually jumped on Ginny's back for a ride.

Sensing that Ginny wanted to feed her new friend, Mr Gonzalez opened a can of dog-food. That was the start of a new vocation that now costs him £120 a day in cat-food alone, and can require thousands more to pay the vet. For instance, he spent \$4,200 on surgery for the Count of Monte Cristo. Night after night, day after day, Ginny and her master



Made for each other. Ginny the mongrel and her owner share a flat with 21 cats

patrol the backstreets of their neighbourhood, retrieving stray cats. First, the deaf Madame moved in to Mr Gonzalez's one-bedroom flat. Then Vogue, Revlon, Betty Boop and Topsy, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and Tiger, Spot, Caesar, Pinky and Princess, and Sheba (who became Solomon when it became apparent "she" was a tom-cat) and the two cats called Camus, and Darlene and the rest.

Ginny's story first came to the public's attention when Mr Gonzalez went to an evening class in Manhattan on "How to Talk to Your Cat". Betty Boop, named after an American cartoon character, was refusing to use the cat litter and was urinating on the carpet. Mr Gonzalez wanted to find out why. (It turned out that she had injured back paws which hurt when she

trod on cat litter.) Carol Wilbourn, a "cat therapist", asked the class how many cats they each had at home. Mr Gonzalez confessed that he had eight, because his dog kept rescuing them.

Ms Wilbourn told a friend at *Good Housekeeping* magazine, who sent a reporter and photographer. The article, published in June 1994, prompted the book, co-written with Leonore Fleischer, which has now gone through ten printings in America and been followed by a sequel, *The Blessing of the Animals*. Mr Gonzalez recently signed a contract to turn Ginny's story into a Hollywood film.

The day I visited Mr Gonzalez, he had just saved a litter of five kittens from an early death at the hands of a local vet. With typical aplomb, he named them after the Marx Brothers: Harpo, Chico,

Gummo, Zeppo and Groucho. "Every time I help one out, I feel stronger inside, especially when I save a life," he declared.

Later, we took Ginny for a walk to the Paradise scrubland. Loosed from her lead, the little mongrel galloped through the grass towards a tri-coloured calico cat who came to greet her. The stray was Van Gogh—although he must have been an early Van Gogh because he still had both ears. The two kissed nose to nose and then Van Gogh settled down for Ginny to groom him.

"If people got along the way Ginny gets along with cats," Mr Gonzalez observes, "there wouldn't be any wars and the world would be a much happier place."

● The Dog Who Rescues Cats is published by Simon & Schuster, £9.99

Our three-year-old Burmese cat lived indoors until he came to us seven months ago. Since then, he has had a wonderful time, chasing and catching rabbits, shrews, mice and, once, a squirrel. He has also learnt to climb up trees. But not down. He has had three rescues by helpful, ladder-owning friends, has gone AWOL (we suspect up a tree) for three days, and once the fire brigade had to be called out. How can we teach him to return to earth under his own steam—or stop him climbing trees in the first place?

I am sure your Burmese is enjoying his new-found freedom and I am just as sure that he will find his way down from the highest tree if he is left to his own devices. Rescuers, be they professional firefighters or enthusiastic amateurs, don't help. He is much more likely to fall and injure himself with human help than if he is left to his own devices. If he appears to be trapped up a tree, wait until it is dark, then use a powerful torch to encourage him to follow the beam down from one branch to another. Or just ignore him. Many years ago, one of my cats had an insatiable ambition to get on to the roof of our bungalow. I climbed a ladder and "rescued" him a score of times. Then I got fed up and this coincided with his learning how to get down on his own. I suspect your cat will respond in the same way.

We have just moved to an old farm with a paddock and a large pond, nearly half an acre. We would like to keep ducks and



Make sure your ducks are safe from foxes

perhaps some ornamental water fowl. We have always kept pets but don't know how about birds outdoors. How do we start?

You have the beginnings of a paradise for ducks: space and water. Start in the spring with one of the "common" breeds: Aylesbury, Khaki Campbell or Muscovy. They will need a daily feed of cereal mixture from the local corn merchants. Evening is the best feeding time, to persuade them to come home, and the dining area should be close to the pond. Do not encourage ducks to come to your back door. Duck droppings are profuse, liquid and smelly. Shutting ducks in a substantial wooden shed overnight, with straw for bedding, helps to foil foxes. And if you want eggs, let the birds have a lie-in. Ducks lay in the early morning, so by 10am there are eggs on the floor waiting to be collected. An alternative anti-fox system is a raft with a basic shelter and a few water plants. Attach a rope to each bank so it can be brought to the shore or towed to mid-pond. Ducks sleeping or nesting on this platform are quite safe.

I live in an isolated cottage and I have been burgled twice. I have heard about wolf hybrids—crosses between wolves and German shepherd dogs. Are there any special difficulties about keeping them?

Before buying a wolf hybrid you need a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. This requires the local council to be satisfied that you will keep the wolf hybrid in an adequate, escape-proof kennel and run; that you have third-party insurance; and that your premises are inspected every year by a vet and an officer of the council. The licence fee and insurance can cost £200 a year. A wolf hybrid cannot be kept as a house dog, or taken for a walk on a lead. I do not know why anyone breeds them. Too many finish up having a boring, lonely life. The best guard dog is one that barks when a stranger approaches, but is friendly and affectionate. The only risk is that he—or she—might lick an intruder to death. But a burglar cannot be sure and the bark is enough to persuade most potential intruders to try their luck elsewhere.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.



### ADOPT ME

REX is a three-year-old greyhound-cross-labrador who was brought into the RSPCA after his owner developed health problems and could no longer keep him. He is playful, but gentle with children and other dogs and would make a good family pet. If you are interested in adopting Rex, please contact the RSPCA Mayhew Animal Centre (0181-969 0179).

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## Succulents may not bloom in winter

but they remain beautiful, says Jane Owen



## Irresistible

## fleshpots

A few years ago, those who dictate food fashion suddenly remembered about the seasons and suggested that no menu was worth its salt without it reflecting the time of year. With gardening there is less choice, although hybrids produce such odd flower shades that the year's colour cycle sometimes appears out of kilter with the season.

In autumn and winter the plants in office window boxes in cities are changed to cyclamen and pansies. The colour never ceases. As we retreat from the garden, so indoor plants take centre stage and legions of cyclamen and poinsettia enter.

In late autumn, before we break out in red, gold and green for Christmas, I like a cool respite from the colour circus with a reflective period of the glaucous whites, greys and blue-greens and the extraordinary shapes and forms of succulents. These are a broad group of plants with fleshy leaves designed to store water, so allowing them to survive drought conditions. All cacti are succulents but the reverse is not true.

It is an odd time of year to consider plants generally associated with hot, arid zones, but it is exactly when they are not flowering that I find their beauty most appealing: the exquisite pale leaves of some of the rosette-forming *Echeveria*, which look as if

they inspired the original Mogul window shapes; the pebble-like *Lithops* or "living stones"; the spidery forms of the air plant or *Bryophyllum*, and the sturdy barrel shapes of *Echinopsis* all appeal.

Best of all, most succulents, apart from the rosette-forming *Aeonium*, need almost no watering during winter — bear them in mind for hard-of-gardening friends. The most familiar, the Christmas cactus *Schlumbergera X buckleyi*, is soon to burst into colour. There are 700 varieties of Christmas cactus, ranging from the well-known bright crimson, orange, pink and purple-flowered varieties through to the less common white-flowered varieties like 'Snowflake'.

Those determined to soldier on with Christmas cacti must remember not to bring the plants into anywhere with light at night before their buds have formed (usually September). The flower buds need dark nights to form and so bringing the cacti

in to the living room or kitchen will ensure flowerless Christmas cacti. An added bonus of *Schlumbergera* is that, according to a new book, *Eco-Friendly House Plants* (published by Phoenix Illustrated at £9.99), Christmas cacti remove chemical vapours from the atmosphere — unlike most

other plants, they remove carbon dioxide and release oxygen at night.

Ralph Northcott, one of this country's leading nurserymen, and a regular gold medalist at Royal Horticultural Society shows, was lured into succulent obsession at the age of nine when playing in his grandmother's greenhouse. He knocked over a peanut cactus (*Echinopsis chamaecereus* syn *Chamaecereus silvestrii*) which fell apart. His grandmother gave him the bits to grow cuttings. He did so and used them as swaps for conkers and marbles. Thirty years on, he has a third of an acre under glass and 200,000 to 300,000 plants to look after with the help of his wife.

His suggestion for a good display at this time of year is *Echinocactus grusonii* (golden barrel cactus), the elegant *Cleisocactus strausii* 'Snow Pole' and the classic spaghetti western 'rabbit ear' cactus *Opuntia microdasys* 'Alba'.

Mr Northcott's

great achievement is to bring hardy cacti to this country. The Americans have been growing cacti in ever-cooler conditions since the 1970s but Mr Northcott is the first large grower to try this on a commercial scale.

Imagine an *Opuntia* outside your window, covered in snow. The Northcotts have witnessed such a sight and, if Mr Northcott's schemes go according to plan, the Chelsea Flower Show in 1999 should include a display of cacti hardy to minus 20C.

There are three fairly hardy plants not normally grown outside and in which Mr Northcott has most faith: *Opuntia pycnantha*, which is the spectacular bush form and can suffer temperatures as low as minus 34C; *Opuntia imbricata*, which is the tubular, Wild West cactus shape; and the yucca-like *Dasylirion texanum*.

Most cacti can be grown from seed and many can be propagated from rootstock or leaf or stem cuttings. They need a free-draining soil, about one-third sharp sand to two-thirds potting compost, and their main pest, mealybug, has to be sprayed with malathion. When dormant, succulents in pots need to be kept dry, and during the growing season the compost must dry out between waterings. But be warned — if you get infected by this obsession there are probably about 20,000 varieties.

● Westfield Cacti, 01392 832021



Ralph Northcott with his all-season cacti

'Most succulents need no watering during winter months'

## GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON  
replies to readers' letters

Q My 8ft-high, 50ft-long leylandii hedge provides exactly the screen I need from the hotel next door, but cracks are appearing in the Tarmac of the hotel car park, spreading out from the base of half a dozen of my leylandii. I would welcome your advice on root pruning, whether I could be asked to pay for resurfacing, and whether I should start again with a new hedge. — J. Berry, Sandbach, Cheshire.



Keep leylandii in check

A I would leave well alone. Hedges give privacy and security on both sides, and I imagine the hotel management is as glad of your hedge as you are. Leylandii are not notorious for making big surface roots, but whatever the reason, it would do your hedge no good to have these roots severed. However, a neighbour has the right to sever them on his property, and if the roots cause a nuisance you are liable.

Q I used to use the herbicide Weedout to tackle couch grass because it did not affect other plants. Now that it has been withdrawn, can you recommend a useful alternative? — D.R. Gilling, Norwich.

A Weedout (aloxodym sodium) was very useful, if not quite the saviour you make it sound: it killed grasses generally, among broad-leaved plants. Farmers still have a commercial version, but there is no formulation for amateurs. Weedout was withdrawn, not by the Government but by the manufacturer, because it did not sell well enough.

Q I have acid soil and grow rhododendrons and camellias easily. All my neighbours have blue hydrangeas with no special treatment, but not me. What could be missing from my soil? Iron? Aluminium? — D.L. Smare, Guiseley, West Yorkshire.

A To get a deep blue hydrangea you need first of all a willing variety. Those which are pale pink on limey soil will only be pale blue on acid soil. Deep reds on lime will be a rich blue on acid: for example, 'Altona', 'Hamburg', 'Europa' and the lace-cap type 'Blue Wave'. If the soil is acid but the flowers are not blue, the soil is short of aluminium. This can be corrected by adding alum powder, sold in garden centres. Be careful not to overdose the plants, and follow the instructions on the packet.

● Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E14 9NN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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# Hideaway for wok, rest and play

Nancy Lam, the Channel 5 cook, once described as the Khmer Rouge's answer to Basil Fawlty, is being alarmingly calm for someone who can cause grown food critics to wish they'd stuck with Delia Smith. No obscenities are uttered — as they are to journalists and customers who brave Enak Enak, her eight-table restaurant in south London. Her hair, sometimes a riot of five primary colours, is plain red.

But this is Ms Lam's Tooting home, a small Edwardian semi with a 120ft garden stretching down to a suburban railway line. She is off duty.

"I am a very nice person," she says and roars with laughter. So why does she give her customers such grief?

"Not called grief. That is called heavy fun. It like a verbal massage and the customers, they love it. They say 'that woman is mad'."

Tooting, home for the past 21 years after she arrived from Singapore in 1976, James Ms Lam. Maybe the calming effect is enhanced by chimes that hang from many of the small trees in her garden.

"When I get very frustrated I ring the whole chimes — ring ring ring. Bong bong bong," roars Ms Lam, who is nearly 50 ("like Prince Charles") going on four-and-a-half.

However, even the garden has its tensions with Ben, her husband, who is shouted at a lot on her television series.

"Ben is not into gardening. He is trying to play golf, so he makes lots of holes in my garden. I am going to put a big sign: 'You do not damage your garden. You damage your brain.'"

This is said in a manner that suggests the brain damage would be inflicted by Ms Lam.

"Men have the menopause worse than women. I know he's got his on and so have I. On television, people say, 'Oh, she gives him a really hard time', but it is acting."

The Singapore flat she was brought up in had a balcony where her mother grew roses that she was not allowed to touch. Today her front garden is full of roses.

The back garden is reached through a conservatory, built to extend the living space for people rather than plants.



Nancy Lam, television's wildest cook, finds peace in her south London garden, which features a terrace for meditation and herbs for infusing bathwater. The pond contains koi carp beneath the ornamental fountain



## ME AND MY GARDEN: NANCY LAM

Outside, a concrete path leads to a spiral staircase up to a roof terrace where Ms Lam sunbathes. Naked. "I call it my own nude beach."

The roof — "I call it my meditation room" — supports Ms Lam, two wooden elephants from Africa (a present from her brother) and pots full of pansies, honeysuckle and Busy Lizzies.

"Pansies are such welcoming flowers. They smile at you when you water them."

A trellis swathed in clematis makes a private oasis at the house end of the garden. Here, herbs are planted within easy

reach of the kitchen: fennel, basil, tarragon, thyme, coriander, chilli, Chinese herbs, marjoram, mint, rosemary.

She uses them for cooking, especially salads, but most of all for herbal infusions, to bathe in rather than drink.

Canna lilies, orange, yellow, pink and spotted, and ivy-leaved geraniums provide colour while scented leaf pelargoniums provide balm.

"If you feel low you go into the garden and rub them up and you feel better."

Raised beds made from railway sleepers reach up the side of the garden. The beds

support magnolia, camellia, mock orange, hydrangeas, wisteria, bamboo, white lilac, mulberry, cherry, almond, greengage, pear, apricot, peach and fig. Ms Lam planted them all except an old apple. "It has woodworm. Very sad. Have to get rid of it."

The beds are raised in case Ms Lam's arthritis finally prevents her from bending. Arthritis is also the reason for her current diet — she has to lose a stone by Christmas. "I have to eat less and enjoy it."

Now the only fruit left is on the Turkish fig. The almond gives a few nuts "but in England it is difficult. The Mulberry does not have many fruit but they are so sweet. The apples are not so good now, so I put them in salad."

The centrepiece of the garden is a 26ft koi carp pond made from Butyl liner, with a fountain in the middle and dotted with white water lilies. Sited around the edge is a planting of hostas ("unfortunately, they are always eaten

by the slugs"), ornamental grasses and bamboo.

The bricks that form a slightly raised patio at the far end of the garden came from a Chelsea Flower Show display garden, and cost £50.

Money, or lack of it, is a recurring theme of Ms Lam's commentary on her garden: "They think because you are a showgirl you've got plenty of dosh. That is not the case."

"When I have money the first thing I'll do is build a pergola over the terrace — an

oriental one, with a vine over it. Then I make another pond."

Will she get a bigger restaurant to make more money? "No. You only can die with one coffin. You only can drive one car. It is Catch-22. If you have big restaurant, you have big headache. If you have small one, you just have pain in the side."

Ms Lam says. Another plan is to rebuild an eccentric feature that involves water trickling down four concrete steps. "It's called the Botched-Up Waterfall. Next year I'll break it down and make it more exotic."

"It is a garden of wildness. It is not neat. It has more weeds than my hair growing. I love it. I get out in the morning or night and weed and pick up the droppings from the dogs and water my garden."

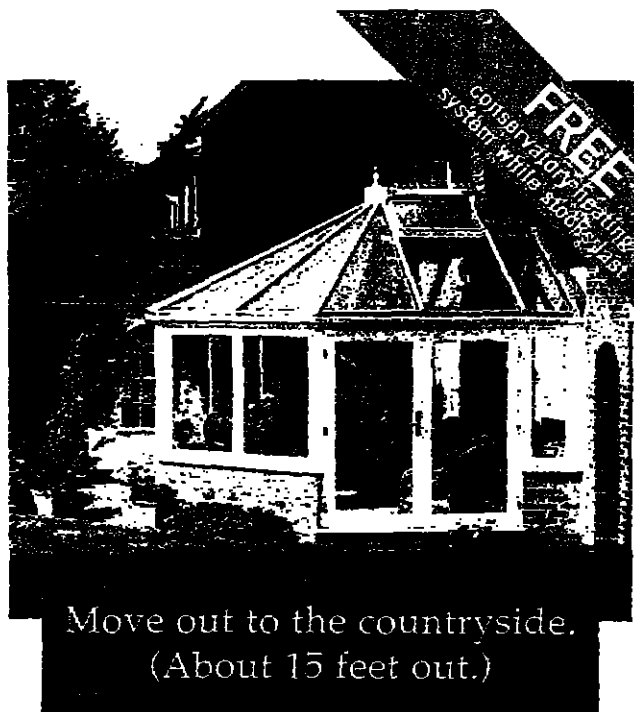
Where does Ms Lam get her plants? "Everywhere. Boot fairs. Sometimes Woolworth's has the best."

But her long-term ambition is to do with neither cooking nor gardening: "When I grow up I am going to draw."

JANE OWEN

● Nancy Lam Stirs It Up was published by *Fort Estate*, price £16.99 on November 6.

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**Club Med shakes off its singles image**

Eilat · 27

# THE TIMES TRAVEL

**A dawn search for Gambian raptors**

Birdwatching · 30



## German goodwill and glühwein

**Gareth Huw Davies finds seasonal cheer in a city at peace with itself**

On a late afternoon of nipping chill, in a city square in the heart of Europe, I found the antidote to brash, glitzy, overblown, commercial Christmas.

As the daylight ebbed, a cheerful glow pulsed up from the covered stalls of the Nuremberg Christkindlmarkt, crammed together in medieval tightness. The city, capital of the Franconia region of northern Bavaria, claims the greatest concentration of department stores in Germany. The modest wares on sale here in the Hauptmarkt scarcely caused the people in smart coats and scarves to take out their credit cards but at four o'clock, a choir of Nuremberg masteringers took the stage in front of Frauenkirche. Cue for the smart coats to press forward and form a genteel Germanic scrum around the base of the stage. I stood back to listen, wrapping my fingers for maximum warming effect around a ceramic mug of glühwein.

The choir sang *Hark the Herald Angels* in English, with unaccompanied purity. Ancient decree prohibits aerial competition among the stalls — no traders' calls, no music. The stallholders are chosen from local merchants. They stand proud under painted

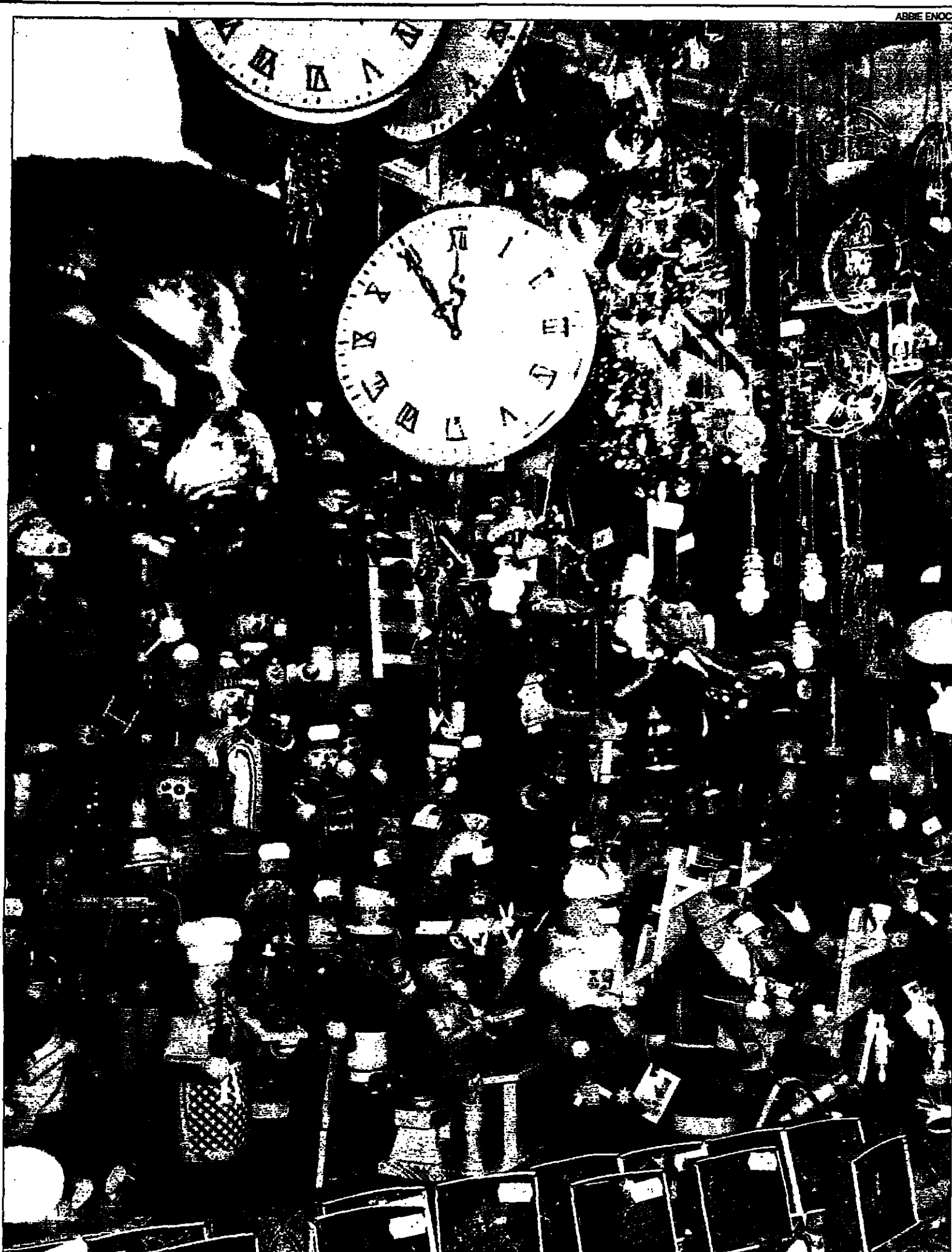
name boards, selling toys and small seasonal ornaments that dangle and rustle in the raw wind. There were gold foil angels, straw stars, candles and diaphanous mobiles. One lady surveyed her wares from a small aperture high at the back of her stall. She was entirely framed by Zwetschenmännlein — little prune and crêpe paper figures.

I bought Lebkuchen (spicy gingerbread), the deceptively dense and heavy Früchtebrot (fruit bread), Stollen and fruit tea. Fröhliche. Down every alley there was a family toiling over hot coals for the snacks that work to best effect outdoors on a cold evening.

The Wolf family served me grilled Nuremberg sausages, Rostbratwürste. There were six on my plate, with a towering hunk of break and a mound of sauerkraut.

This is the market of markets, the first and best in Europe, the model for any city or town that wants to create a small enclave of tranquillity away from the seasonal shopping frenzy. This is Nuremberg's Christmas Continuous, carrying on much as it has since the Middle Ages.

The Christkindlmarkt (literally the Christchild's market) had an unlikely patron, Martin Luther, father of Protestantism, initiated the custom



The Nuremberg Christmas market (above left) combines the seasonal traditions of gift-buying and warming food and wine with rousing music

of giving presents to children at Christmas instead of new year. Fixed in its season, the market proceeded serenely through the centuries. Hitler, recognising a symbol of Germanic family values in the propaganda capital of his Reich, gave it his support.

Retribution came to Nuremberg on January 2, 1945, when Allied bombers destroyed 90 per cent of the old town. The market reopened in 1948, a beacon of hope even as the war trials were proceeding a few streets away in the Hall of Justice.

There is live music on the Frauenkirche stage on the hour, every hour — in a city whose name is contained in the title of a great opera, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, you would expect no less. On my walk from the airport bus stop at the main station,

through the traffic-free streets, buskers defied the one-degree cold to spread a continuous pathway of sound.

On Königstrasse, four French horns boomed out a melody of carols. A man playing an antique metal fiddle reeled off yearning melodies. And, incongruous and stoical, Kenny Grant "aus Schottland", in a kilt, rendered Brian Boru's march on a tin whistle.

Hans Sachs, the extraordinary 16th-century cobbler, poet, playwright and master-singer who is the hero of Wagner's opera, was everywhere in statues, on chocolate-box lids and ceramic plates. I even saw him in paintable model-form, alongside soldiers of the Brandenburg Kurassier regiment.

Sachs' poem, *Bittersweet Married Life*, is controver-

sially set in lascivious sculpture as a fountain, depicting scenes from marital life — it was paid for from the 1-2 per cent of the building budget which developers are required to spend on public art.

The image of Nuremberg's other famous son, Albrecht Dürer, was there on chocolate boxes too, but disappointingly not in the original. This may have more to do with past art-market forces than any neglect by today's city fathers. I stayed at the Dürer Hotel, next door to his house. Today, as the Dürer Museum, it contains only copies of the master's works. For the originals, try the Prado or the Uffizi.

Save Nuremberg's market for the fading day. The morning is the time to climb the

ramparts and take in the city. Germany is an unlikely candidate for monarchical restoration but if the king ever were to return, the Kaiserburg, the old imperial castle built on precipitous crags, is waiting.

The "old" city, rebuilt after the war much as it was, spread out before us, timbered houses with steep brown and red roofs enclosed by the three-mile-long, 14th-century city wall, with its 30 fortified towers and the tremendous bulwarks of four main gates.

My guide, a Germanophile American named Sally Slenczka, extended an arm over a feel-good city, comfortable and humane in its proportions. She made no attempt to divert my eye from the complex of buildings representing a mighty evil a few miles to the southeast. Medieval Nuremberg held

a powerful fascination for the Nazis and the first of the great Nazi rallies was held here in 1927. I am surprised that the physical remains of Hitler's propaganda machine are still there. But perhaps there is a point to leaving the unfinished Congress Hall, the Main Stand, Zeppelinfeld parade ground and colossal Grosse Strasse, 60 metres wide and two kilometres long (it is now a car park), as mute witnesses to Nazi megalomania.

Sally led me down into the old town. We crossed the river Pegnitz on Germany's first suspension bridge and passed the house where the mysterious founding Kaspar Hauser briefly lived after he was found, so it was claimed, living wild in the forest in the early years of the last century. The Toy Museum displays what may be the original Meccano



**FACT FILE**

- Gareth Huw Davies travelled to Nuremberg with the German National Tourist Office and Lufthansa.
- Lufthansa (0345 73747) flies direct to Nuremberg from Heathrow once daily at 8.30pm. Prices start at £192 return, which must include a Saturday night stay; otherwise from £466.
- Operators offering Nuremberg Christmas market breaks include Taber Holidays (01274 73561); three nights start at £298 per person and DER Travel Service (0171-290 111); three nights start at £439 per person.
- Dürer Hotel Neuturmstrasse 32 (00 49 911 20809); double room with breakfast £76-£86. Although December is busy in Nuremberg, the city's Tourist Board (00 49 911 33624) can arrange accommodation.
- The Nuremberg Christkindlmarkt opens at 5.30pm on November 28 and runs until 1pm on December 24.
- Some of the biggest markets in Germany are in Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, Cologne, Munich, and Stuttgart.
- The German National Tourist Office, 65 Curzon Street, London. W1Y 5NE (0891 600100, premium rates, fax 0171-495 6129).

set, developed by local toy manufacturers.

Nuremberg has two fine high Gothic churches, St. Lorenz and St. Sebaldus, close together and similar. This was a free city and one of Europe's first civic democracies, so the citizenry saw no reason to smash up the contents in the Reformation. The churches' treasures were hidden before the bombers struck. Most of St. Lorenz was destroyed.

Outside the 19th-century German National Museum is the *Way of Human Rights* by the Israeli sculptor Dani Karavan. It struck me as an eloquent response to the Nuremberg Laws and other outrages perpetrated in the city's name. Thirty pillars and a tree stand in a row; each pillar represents a nation where human rights have been, or are being, violated (the leaves on the tree stand for the nations left out), and each is inscribed with one of the 30 articles of the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

I decide to send myself forth into the Christmas season with a last visit to the market. On Königstrasse the four French horns were still playing lustily; rapid, ornamented Baroque music keeps you warm. A trombone ensemble played *Angels from the Realms of Glory*. And the Christmas card artist's fantasy fulfilled — a single snowflake brushed against my cheek.

Christmas markets, page 26



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Christmas markets: they have long been a success in Germany and Austria and now British cities are copying the idea

## Shopping in a Viennese whirl



Christmas is big business in Vienna, where the markets run for longer than in Britain

The Viennese, having shopped 'til they dropped in department stores, head for the markets which spring up around the city for Advent and the countdown to Christmas.

When we visited, the famous Viennese coffee houses were crammed with exhausted but victorious shoppers rewarding themselves with large helpings of chocolate sachertorte, washed down by small, expensive cups of coffee. Then, their shopping fever unabated, they turned their attention to one of the many markets dedicated to the festive season.

Neat wooden huts (none of your plastic sheeting here) in even nearer lines held displays of every imaginable Christmas tree light, decoration, candle and wooden toy. Anyone who was still hungry could rely on a steady supply of mulled wine, pretzels, hot potatoes and chestnuts.

The market of markets takes place each year in the courtyard at Schönbrunn, the summer palace of the Habsburgs, a short underground ride from the city centre.

The attraction of Schönbrunn is the apartments of Sisi, Empress Elizabeth, the much-loved princess who died from an assassination attempt in 1898. Next year, Vienna mounts a series of centenary exhibitions and events in her honour.

When we arrived at the market, throngs of people were already shopping with gusto in the courtyard below the elegantly floodlit palace, or leaning against the bar of a mulled wine hut.

Christmas is big business in Vienna, regardless of the religious significance it may have for the country's overwhelmingly Catholic population. In a city radiating such Christmas goodwill, the sight of three armed policemen standing around their patrol car in a quiet cobbled square came as a shock. But this was Friday evening off the Judengasse, or Jews' Street. The police have stood guard since last year's murder of two worshippers at the city's synagogue by Palestinian extremists.

Orthodox Jews in long black coats and

fur hats ignored the police as they hurried into the synagogue through the cold winter air. The police were joking among themselves but their presence served as a salutary reminder that, even in proudly low-crime Vienna, there are undercurrents of conflict.

Nearer to the centre, in front of the town hall, the stalls of the Christkindlmarkt fill the Rathauspark every day in the month leading up to Christmas.

And there are also workshops for making and baking presents and special sideshows for children. At night this shopping extravaganza continues, and the atmosphere of the illuminated market is quite magical.

Smaller and more traditional is the Alt Wiener Christkindlmarkt at the Freyung, while other Christmas markets can be found at the Heiligenkreuzerhof and in the Spittelberg pedestrian area.

SARA MCCONNELL

### FACT FILE

■ Sara McConnell travelled with Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts and Landa Air.

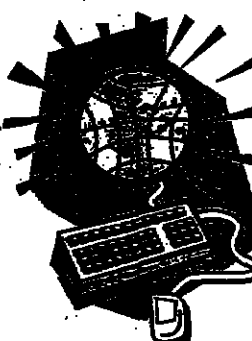
■ Heart of the City weekends are available at the Hotel Inter-Continental Wien at Johannesgasse 28, Vienna, including a room for two. Prices start at £97. For reservations call 0345 581 444.

■ Landa Air prices start at £178 return Gatwick-Vienna, or from £182 Manchester-Vienna. Flights must be purchased seven days ahead. For reservations call 0845 6077737.

### WEB WORLD CHRISTMAS MARKETS

#### WHERE DO I START?

[www.nuernberg.de/events/events.html](http://www.nuernberg.de/events/events.html) offers a brief intro to Nuremberg's Christmas Market, while the sparklingly starry site at [www.christkindlmarkt.at/english/index.htm](http://www.christkindlmarkt.at/english/index.htm) does the same for Vienna. For a listing of North European events leading up to Christmas, including the markets, check out [www.seneurope.com/events.htm](http://www.seneurope.com/events.htm) or, for the sole British equivalent, to [www.britishadventures.com/britvnl2.htm](http://www.britishadventures.com/britvnl2.htm). **KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL:** For the Hidden Christmas Markets six-day tour in Germany and Strasbourg, from £590 (flights extra) visit [www.europe.com/hidden/index.html](http://www.europe.com/hidden/index.html). For a general pick of the best Christmas holiday deals drop by the [products.compuServe.co.uk/ukinsight/page5.htm](http://products.compuServe.co.uk/ukinsight/page5.htm) site. **TRAVELLERS' TALES:** Read messages and queries from past happy



shoppers at the Nuremberg Market at [www.nuernberg.de/events/ckm96/gruesse\\_e.html](http://www.nuernberg.de/events/ckm96/gruesse_e.html) complete with electronic rendering of *Silent Night* or post your own by emailing [webmaster@nuernberg.de](mailto:webmaster@nuernberg.de). See for yourself what Vienna market looks like with photos from Europe's first photoagency on the web — [www.atnet.co.at/viennaslide/7361.htm](http://www.atnet.co.at/viennaslide/7361.htm). Lincoln's Christmas Market may not be online yet but for a personal guide to Lincoln and its other attractions, check out Michelle Barnes's site at [www.hermes2.demon.co.uk/lincoln1.htm](http://www.hermes2.demon.co.uk/lincoln1.htm). **MUGGING-UP:** For a look at Christmas Markets, go to [www.eurogastronomy.com/EN/chap1/themes.html](http://www.eurogastronomy.com/EN/chap1/themes.html). **"WELL, I NEVER"** Check out live camera footage of the Christmas Market at Nuremberg, at [www.christkindlmarkt.de/live/index\\_e.html](http://www.christkindlmarkt.de/live/index_e.html).

SUSANNAH JOWITT

## Festive cheer in Lincolnshire

Gareth Huw Davies discovers how glühwein can take the stress out of all that shopping

Looming over its miles of low-slung countryside, Lincoln is one of the most surprising cities in England — and for a few days in winter, it also becomes one of the most continental.

In early December, the streets of the ancient centre — between the west front of the superb, 900-year-old cathedral and the even older castle — are transformed into a bustling enclave of Central Europe. Lincoln's successful replication of the German and Austrian Christmas market is being observed by other cities, eager to fill the slow period for tourism.

This winter, Edinburgh inaugurates its own week-long Christmas market. Other towns and cities have started smaller markets, as councillors return from fact-finding trips to their twin towns with news of how even small towns in Germany put a warm glow into their civic bosoms in December.

I went from London to Lincoln for the market last winter. Mindful of potential traffic chaos because of the influx of visitors from all over the East Midlands, I turned my trip into a pleasant afternoon excursion by train from King's Cross.

This is an appropriate way to arrive in a cathedral city: just two hours after a leisurely haul through the flat fenlands, and tea on the train, we pulled into the charmingly antique station, with its graceful period details — semaphore signals, crenellated wooden eaves, golden bricks and grey and red metalwork.

Christmas markets are a joyful illusion, reminiscent of a cosier time in an indeterminate past. They work best beneath warm evening light in "heritage" civic settings. The illusion began to take effect in the film-set railway station. I decided to walk rather than dispel the mood by taking a taxi, which would have driven me up the ugly canyon of a bypass that keeps central Lincoln probably more traffic-free than at any time since the Middle Ages. To find the market, I had only to head for

the sensationally illuminated cathedral on the hill. I walked under the Roman arch, Stonebow, along the Strait and the climb began. Up Steep Hill, where the cobbled way almost took off under my feet.

After a precipitous climb — I'm sure the shops here look for resting, as well as passing, trade — I reached the uplands.

In Castle Square, a young clarinetist negotiated the second movement of Mozart's concerto in A Major. Coins tinkled down. Stalls spilled out of the castle grounds, into the surrounding streets and pressed up against the west door of the cathedral. This market has very quickly reached bursting point. It cannot grow any more, at least not spatially. The only expansion available is to let it run longer. As in the German markets, a quarter of the 200 stalls sell food. The organisers paid due

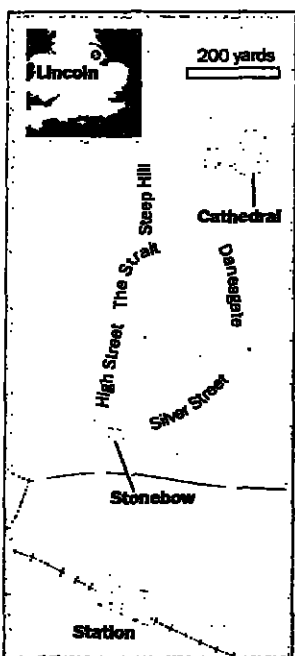
acknowledgment to their inspiration, ensuring ample supplies of Teutonic fare, including unquenchable vats of glühwein, chestnuts and mince pies.

The stalls, a third of them run by professional traders, sell the familiar range of jewellery, craft items and seasonal decorations. There is a big involvement by volunteers and fund raisers. Last year, for example, the Lions Club sold 18,000 lanterns. The market, now in its 16th year, is the city's biggest single tourist event and has won it three awards for off-peak tourism.

The model for the event came from its German twin, Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, which also supplied the recipe for Lincoln's potent glühwein.

The market organisers wisely refrained from drawing a theme from the history that surrounds them in the shape of Roman remains, Norman castle and medieval cathedral. Instead, they opted for a vaguely Dickensian feel, dressing anyone official in Victorian costume.

There were street entertainers and big, wholesome fairground rides like steam gallopers. This year there will



### FACT FILE

■ Lincoln Tourist Information (01522 528828). Information about Lincoln's Christmas Market is on 01522 51300.

National rail inquiries (0345 484980); a day return from London to Lincoln costs £29.50 for travel starting after 9.30am.

■ Other, smaller, city events include York's St Nicholas Fayre, from Nov 27 to 30, markets and craft stalls in the heart of the city. Worcester's Victorian Christmas market, in the city centre, runs from Dec 4-6.

Lancaster has a Festival of Christmas trees: shops will place a decorated tree in their windows, to be judged on December 12. Rochester's Dickensian Fair occupies the High Street on December 6-7. Ring 0800 192192 to find the number of your local tourist information centre.

be a touch of pre-war Vienna, in the shape of a 33-metre-high ferris wheel.

Lincoln (and most of the British Christmas markets for that matter), disappointingly, does not match the German markets on length or timing. Nuremberg's market, for example, begins in late November and closes at lunchtime on Christmas Eve. Lincoln's four-day market (December 4-7 this

year) ends 18 days before Christmas Day. This, apparently, is because volunteers cannot be expected to give up weeks of their time. In addition, organisers are anxious to spare residents an extended assault by visitors.

The timing, at the start of December, results from the obsession with early Christmas shopping in Britain. In previous years, when the mar-



A woodcraft stall in Lincoln. Handmade toys have proved as popular in Britain as they are in German markets

ket was held closer to Christmas, traders found visitors came only to browse, having completed their shopping.

If Lincoln was the prototype market, Edinburgh's is one of the first of the production models. The inaugural Christmas market will be held in Princes Street Gardens, with the floodlit castle as backdrop. It opens on December 6 and runs until the 14th.

The organisers, supported by the city council and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise, gathered ideas at last year's Christmas market in Vienna. "We decided it could be done here, but slightly differently, and smaller," said a spokeswoman. Edinburgh's will be a continental-style Christmas market with 40 stalls selling things that are not on sale in Princes Street. Festive demon-

strations will include present-wrapping and cocktail-making. However, through some perversity of Scottish law, you won't be able to buy glühwein out of doors — only in covered marquees.

It will be some years before Britain's Christmas markets rival their German models, but even now they are offering a gentle introduction to the festive season.

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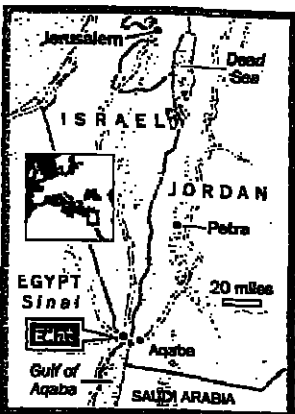
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# Family beach at the desert's edge



**Club Med has shaken off its swinging singles image in Israel, as Winifred Blackmore discovered**

When Eilat was first mooted as our holiday destination, I was sceptical. Eilat? I could not even pronounce it, let alone pinpoint it on the map. And Club Med? The name conjured up visions of swinging — French — singles purchasing exotic cocktails with beads. Surely not the place for your basic boring, English family with two children?

However, Club Med has matured over the years — even mellowed. Resorts are now clearly labelled: singles, couples and, yes, families. Even the beads have gone, abandoned because younger guests had a nasty habit of eating them.

The Club Med at Coral Beach, just up the road from Eilat on the southernmost tip of Israel, is a good example of the new family resort, where guests tailor their holiday to their needs. Sick to death of your kids? Fine. Check them into the Mini Club. Club Med's answer to daycare.

Then head for the gym or the beach, confident that they are learning some exciting new skill like archery or mini-golf under the expert supervision of the *Gentils Organisateurs* (GOs) — the group's young, beautiful and exceptionally hard-working staff. On the other hand, you are anxious to spend time with your offspring, that is all right, too. At Club Med, nobody has to join in and nobody is made to feel like a party-pooper for not participating.

Do not go to Club Med expecting high-tech. There is — gasp — no television. My children, who see the television as the sixth member of our family (after the dog), could hardly believe this. There is also no room service.

Club Med works hard at promoting the image of the hotel as haven: a place where you and your children can be pampered and kept out of harm's way. This takes some getting used to — but persevere. By about Day Three, when your child wanders off for the umpteenth time, you



The Coral Beach resort near the Negev desert in southern Israel is a holiday destination that manages to be both child-friendly and exotic with dolphins offshore and desert camel rides

will not care. The GOs keep a discreet but vigilant eye on young guests and children are encouraged to be independent. Those aged eight and over are allowed the freedom of the hotel — provided parents give their permission. Most do.

Almost as hard to get used to is the scenery. The hotel at Coral Beach looks out across the Gulf of Eilat to the Red Mountains of Jordan. They have a raw look, as though somebody has peeled the skin back, exposing the flesh beneath. In the distance, if you crane your neck, you can see Saudi Arabia.

Turn right outside the hotel, going past the camel-ride man, head down the dusty road for ten miles and you hit Egypt. Even the trip from the airport takes you past King Solomon's Mountains (pink with brown stripes like some giant cassata). The whole desert looks like the red section from an artist's palette: burnt umber and ochre, terracotta and sienna.

There are indications that this is not just another holiday destination, but an important border town in a country not



WINTER SUN

known for loving its neighbours: an army checkpoint, a border patrol route. But it is not, as I feared, menacing or oppressive. Indeed, given the bloody terrorist attacks on tourists in neighbouring Egypt, the presence of these tough, unsmiling Israeli troops is actually reassuring.

Back at the hotel there is plenty to please. Lie back and sunbathe by the heated pool. For those who prefer the sea, there is a private beach conveniently close to a coral reef and mind-boggling snorkelling. If you fancy learning to windsurf, just make sure you do not get blown across the Gulf into Jordanian waters — or you might wind up being escorted back to your hotel by

a gunboat. There is also tennis, archery and a well equipped fitness room.

Then there is the food. At Club Med, eating is not just a diversion: it is the focus of the day. Almost an Olympic event really, helped no doubt by the fact that all meals are included in the cost of your package. Breakfast, with brioches, crêpes and croissants, merges into lunch, which blurs into dinner.

The main hotel restaurant, French in style, is fine, but the best-kept secret is the Menora, the kosher restaurant set on the edge of the beach. The food is sublime: Middle Eastern dips with pitta bread, steak and chicken grilled before your eyes, and falafel that bear no resemblance to the desiccated golf balls you find in this country.

Outside the hotel, there are plenty of things to do and see. Club Med has its own excursion office where guests can book outings at special rates, ranging from Dolphin Reef (a PC attraction, a part of the sea where dolphins are kept, no humiliating Flipper tricks) to overnight treks to such places as Petra and Jerusalem. Some of the trips were prohibitively

expensive or unsuitable for children.

However, one excursion suitable for families is the camel desert tour, based at the Wadi Schloro camel ranch just five minutes from the hotel. Tourists are given half an hour's tuition in the rudiments of camel riding — "hook your leg round the pommel and hang on for dear life" — followed by a jaunt through the Arava desert.

The prospect of swaying for several hours atop a ten-foot

hump-backed dromedary filled me with dread. But once I realised I was not going to fall off and that Mona, my trusty camel, knew the way with her long-lashed eyes shut, the thrill and the strangeness overwhelmed me.

Take-offs and landings were disconcerting. My eight-year-old daughter, Siân, who rode double with me, insisted it was better if you closed your eyes, but you will want to keep them wide open the rest of the time. The price is about £75 for

two grown-ups and two children, and includes the cost of a Bedu meal. The tours go twice a day, but take the afternoon trip if you can. Watching the sun sink over the painted mountains and riding home under the desert stars is unforgettable.

For those who want to travel further afield without paying for the expensive and adult-orientated Club Med guide, rent a car (this, too, can be arranged by the hotel) and drive to the Dead Sea. The 2½-

hour trip through the desert really is as straightforward as everybody tells you: just follow the main road until your ears start to pop and you get to the peculiar milky-blue water.

Once at the seaside, do not be deterred by the signs which tell you not to (dive head first into the water, splash or ingest any of it) or by the fact that, as my daughter put it, the whole place "smells like bad scrambled eggs". Like Eilat, it is well worth the risk.



Winifred Blackmore and her daughter Siân get to know Mona

**FACT FILE**

- Winifred Blackmore travelled to Coral Beach, Eilat, with Club Med (0171-581 1161), which offers Sunday departures from Luton and Monday departures from Heathrow to Ovda, from which there is a one-hour transfer.
- Prices, which include flights, transfers, full board (including drinks with meals), sports and sports tuition, children's clubs, entertainment and insurance, start at £606 (adult), £541 (12-17 years), £434 (6-11), £366 (2-5 years) for one week.
- Club Med also offers free stays for children at off-peak times. Coral Beach is closed for refurbishment and opens on December 21.

**Who goes there?** In summer: Pyrex-like Israelis not minding 50-degree heat. In winter: Diving fans. Sun- and sex-starved northern Europeans. Israeli OAPs. London cabbies.

**Getting the ball rolling:** Call the Israeli Tourist Office on 0171-299 1111. On the Internet, visit <http://www.israel.com/tour>

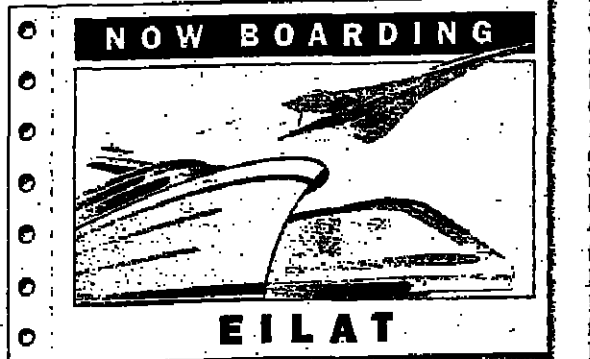
**Perfect timing:** 350 sunny days a year, so hard to miss out on a tan. To avoid being overbaked, stick to "cooler" months outside Jun-Jul-Aug.

**Unlike Atlantic resorts,** sea is always warm.

**Suitcase strategy:** Take out: long, light trousers for camel-riding, hat for desert trips. Bring back: Adidas gear (Israeli-made, so it's relatively cheap). Only local liquor is good value — with uplifting names like *Hallelujah!*

**Pound in your pocket:** 5.5 shekels to the pound. Can pay with credit cards, sterling or dollars nearly everywhere. Don't change money in hotels — change shops don't charge commission.

**Turn of phrase:** Forget "desert" as sand-dunes: think spectacular coloured sand-dunes, risen by a million wadis (dry river beds). "Shalom", or "peace" is



EILAT

"hello". Saying "Shabat Shalom" on Friday evenings and Saturdays shows respect for the Jewish Sabbath. Permanent musical chorus of *Hava Nagila* means "Let's have a good time!"

**Big no-nos:** No smoking in kosher restaurants on the Sabbath. Don't demand milk in your coffee: hotel restaurants are all kosher and don't serve dairy products with meat. Don't joke or bridle at the airport security checks: those guys have no sense of humour, but they are there for your good.

**Nasty surprises:** Like Eilat flies. "direct" Israelis are pushy and in your face.

Israeli music — Europop but worse — more Falafel Fools than Spice Girls.

**Not to be missed:** Scuba-diving, with dolphins at Dolphin Reef. Stimulating freefall over a jet engine at Airodium. Camel-trek into King Solomon's Wadi.

**Way to go:** Only El Al (0171-957 4100) runs scheduled flights direct to Ovda airport, 60 mins drive to Eilat, from £324. Unijet (0990 14114) offers £119 return charter fares from Gatwick. If flying from Israel, call domestic carrier Arkia (00 972 3690 3472).

**Any good packages?** Peltours (0181-343 0590) currently has best deal: £229pp for a week B&B. Thomson, through Portland Direct (0990 002200), charges £295 for a week B&B at Hotel Caesar. For luxury, Longwood Travel (0181-551 4494) offers the best price for a week at King Solomon Palace (£369) or at the Dan Hotel (£479).

**Dull but essential:** No visas necessary for Israel. For daytrips into Egypt or Jordan, visas are obtained on the spot. Don't get your passport stamped, to avoid problems entering other countries.

SUSANNAH JOWITT

Once you have seen the world you can always go to Greenland, so the somewhat dated saying goes. In our opinion we would rather go to Greenland in preference to most places in the world and if you feel the same way you should consider joining us on a late summer expedition cruise aboard the specially adapted *Molchanov*.

We will sail with just over 40 passengers from Iceland, across the Denmark Strait to Ammassalik in East Greenland. Here we will begin a voyage around the fjords and islands of the south, following in the wake of the great Norse settlers who risked life and limb some 900 years ago when they left the shores of Iceland and Norway.

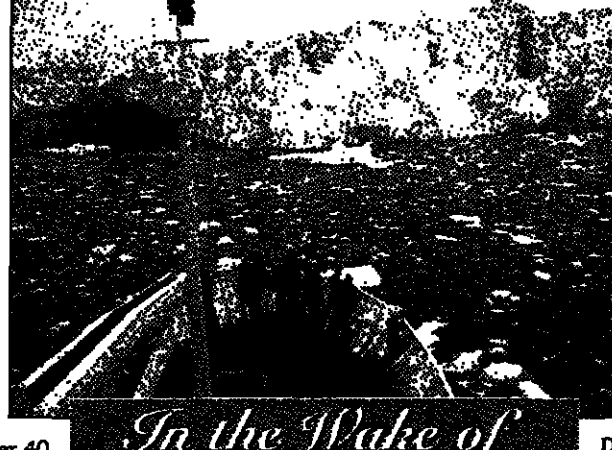
Coastal Greenland is marvellous to behold. Great towering cliffs, walls of glacial ice, winding fjords, vast ice-sheets and flowing glaciers. It is one of the last great wilderness areas where, to date, man has made little difference to the landscape and tourists are still a rarity. For most visitors their first encounter with Greenland is a humbling experience as they witness nature in the raw and look out across a magnificent Arctic world.

## PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV

Built in Finland in 1983 for the former Soviet Union's programme of polar and oceanographic research, she was refurbished in 1994 and fully fitted in 1996 for expeditionary travel. She is a comfortable and well equipped vessel with an ice-strengthened hull, making her ideal for polar waters.

Accommodating a maximum of 52 passengers, the *Professor Molchanov* is 233 feet in length, has a displacement of 2140 tons and is manned by an experienced and enthusiastic Russian crew. On board there is the latest sophisticated navigation and communication equipment and the vessel has the comfort of a passive stabilisation system.

Public areas include a lounge, bar, library, clinic, sauna and an open bridge. The hearty and excellent meals, supervised by European staff are served in two dining rooms. There are large open decks and with only a maximum of just over 50 passengers, the vessel even when full has a peaceful and roomy atmosphere.



In the Wake of ERIC THE RED

**AN EXPEDITION CRUISE TO SOUTHERN GREENLAND ABOARD THE PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV 5th to 15th September 1998**



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## ITINERARY IN BRIEF

**Day 1** London to Reykjavik. Early afternoon flight with Icelandair. Drive to the *Molchanov* at nearby Keflavik. Embark and sail.

**Day 2** At sea. Crossing the Denmark Strait.

**Day 3** Ammassalik. Situated on an island which lies across the mouth of a fjord, Ammassalik is the main population centre on the vast East Greenland Coast. The town and surrounding region supports approximately 5,000 souls in an extraordinarily beautiful area. There will be an opportunity to explore the town and also for a walk through some stunning scenery of lakes and waterfalls. The walkers will rejoin the repositioned

vessel in Sermilik Fjord. **Day 4** Sermilik Fjord. A day of exploration in this vast fjord looking out for narwhals and icebergs. We will also visit a small settlement.

**Days 5 & 6** South East Greenland Coast. Today this magnificent, deeply indented and ice-covered coastline is uninhabited. We will make a couple of forays ashore in the ice-free places such as Sigdoldingen and Tingimarmut, where we will find remains of old Eskimo settlements.

**Day 7** Prins Christian's Sund. We will enter this fjord with its towering mountainous sides as a short-cut to the West Coast and the Herjolfsnes settlement. This is thought to be the place of the first Norse village in Greenland. See the 13th century church which was excavated in the 1920's and some well preserved examples of Norse clothing which were discovered in the permafrost under the church. This was probably the first trading post in Greenland and dates back to the 10th century.

**Day 8** Unartoq Island/Nanortalik. On the island of Unartoq you can swim and laze in Greenland's finest natural hot springs (42°C) amidst wonderful scenery in its autumnal colours. Later visit the largest collection of Inuit ruins in West Greenland. Time permitting we will also visit Nanortalik, a charming town with a delightful picture-postcard harbour, set against the immense granite peaks and spires of the surrounding mountains.

**Days 9 & 10** At sea. Excellent opportunities to see the migration of the northern birds and the chance of witnessing the splendour of the Northern Lights.

**Day 11** Keflavik to London. Disembark after breakfast and return to London with Icelandair, arriving in the late morning.

**Prices per person from £1895 in a twin bedded cabin and from £2395 for a single cabin.**

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 10 nights aboard the *Prof. Molchanov* on full board, shore excursions, entrance fees, transfers, landing fees, port taxes, expedition staff, UK departure tax.

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SKI WEEKEND: TAKING THE CHILDREN

# Sloping off in a class of their own



Don't say cheese, say fromage: some members of the junior ski school at Val d'Isère line up with their instructor to be immortalised in their class photograph; extra courses are organised in many resorts during the school holidays

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Choose a resort which is friendly to families and you can feel sure your children will be in safe hands, says

**Felice Eyston**

It was the nightmare of every skiing parent. I was on an icy mountain road in the gathering dusk standing beside a broken-down hire car. My children would be waiting for me at the ski school, by now deserted, in the small French resort of Vaujany, at least a half-a-dozen bends away on the road above me.

Six hours earlier, in glorious April sunshine, I had left my youngest son, Barney, in the kindergarten and Max, eight, with his ski class, before going to explore a neighbouring resort. I planned to return in plenty of time to retrieve them both at 4pm. But a sudden change in the weather covered the approach road with 18 inches of fresh snow.

I had fixed chains, but halfway back one of them snapped and wrapped itself around the axle. By the time I reached my hotel on foot — cold, sodden and concerned — darkness had fallen.

My worry was needless. The ski teacher had contacted the English nanny from Ski Peak,

our tour operator. She had scooped up the boys and there they were, fed and watered, and happily playing before bedtime. It was a dramatic reminder that absolutely no aspect of a family skiing holiday should be left to chance. The younger your children, the more important it is to choose a resort and a tour operator geared towards families.

Your first task is to select a country. Austria has attractive villages which, typically, have onion-domed churches, gentle slopes and family-run hotels. France offers some of the best-equipped crèches in the Alps, with sparkling nurseries and fenced-off outdoor play areas. Although my top three family resorts are in France, I have encountered surly staff there which can more than offset a kindergarten's good points. It is not unusual to see weary parents (myself included) desperately trying to deposit their unwilling — and often screaming — offspring at a kindergarten.

In Italy, three generations of the same family tend to holiday together, with the result that crèche facilities are usually non-existent. So unless you can take along a nanny or granny, you are probably better advised to look elsewhere. Switzerland has higher prices, although sterling's strength has made it more affordable this year, and the wonderfully efficient staff make you feel that the extra cost is justified.

A newcomer to the British family skiing market is Norway, which is fast becoming one of the most child-friendly countries. Safety is taken seriously here, with helmets actively encouraged and children's ski areas closed to adults.

Isabella, my 18-month-old daughter, loved the Troll Club kindergarten in Geilo, where each day she was swept up

into the ample arms of a smiling Norwegian girl — and forgot about me as soon as her back was turned.

The ski school was well organised and all the instructors spoke good English. To the delight of my six-year-old, Barney, all the members of his class were given colourful Lyra Viking hats to cover their helmets.

Slopeside childcare in Canada and the United States is a long way ahead of the Alpine equivalent. Each resort has facilities for all ages, the staff really seem to make time for your child and the kindergartens are always flexible.

Having picked your resort, you must then decide where to stay. Chalets offer the most practical solution for a family wishing to provide tea after skiing followed by an early children's supper.

It may be cheaper to rent an apartment, but the downside is that someone has to do the shopping and cooking while at the same time trying to enjoy a holiday.

Staying in a hotel can involve expensive extras such as the flow of soft drinks from the bar or minibar. And it is

hardly a relaxing experience if you have to spend your time preventing your little ones from disturbing other guests.

AS expert care is required, nannies employed by specialist tour operators are the best solution. Baby accessories such as cots, poties, baby alarms, bottle-warmers and

sterilisers are bulky to take along, so check they are provided. Trying to buy your usual brand of nappies or milk formula in a resort can be difficult, and the French do not appear to use baby wipes, so take your own.

THE ideal age to learn to ski. A tour operator's "ski school escort service" or afternoon "kids' club" is invaluable. Under this system, nannies pick children up from ski school for lunch and then either deliver them back at lessons in the afternoon or entertain them with making snowmen, walks, tobogganing, ice-skating and games until the end of the adults' skiing day.

THEY will need ski courses or snowboarding lessons: Club Med was the first to run evening clubs so parents could relax before dinner. Other tour operators are following. Continued on page 29



Learning about the snow business: children in the kindergarten at Avoriaz get to play around with toboggans

### TOP RESORTS

Vaujany (France)  
Courchevel (France)  
Les Arcs (France)  
Beaver Creek (Colorado)  
Morzine (France)  
Snowmass (Colorado)  
Smugglers' Notch (Vermont)  
Megève (France)  
Wengen (Switzerland)  
Mayrhofen (Austria)

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SKI WEEKEND: TAKING THE CHILDREN

# Child's play on the nursery slopes

Jane Owen whisks her daughters off for an Alpine odyssey — taking care that they are not witness to her first skiing efforts in eight years

It is a white-out at the top of a red run in St Anton on my first morning's skiing for eight years. And I am sharing this experience with a group of strangers: the head of a light industrial company, the head of a record company, an accountant to the stars.

You get the picture: Big Cheeses with wobbly kneecaps. We share a common bond: we all have children.

In fact, we all have small children, many of whom have never before skied, and we all want to ski — so we have chosen a holiday with one of several companies now trying to meet the needs of the family. I am the exception because I am a single parent.

Like me, my children are robust, but I have never been happy about letting them out of my sight on holiday since the time Rose, then aged three, managed to open the window of her fourth-floor bedroom and crawl out on to the parapet where she was spotted by a couple in a neighbouring hotel, waving happily. I was in the dining room downstairs, and the children were on listening service to the hotel reception.



Jane Owen with daughters Miranda and Rose, plus playmate Lucy and grandfather

Back on the infernal (well, freezing) mountain, Rose, now seven, and Miranda, six, are several lift rides away on the nursery slopes with a nice instructor (French and non-combative) and a nanny from the Mark Warner Chalethotel Rosanna, where we are staying.

Fears about their safety are momentarily superseded by selfish fear of the slope in front with the rep shouting: "It's great, nobody else is here!"

Well, of course — nobody else is stupid enough to ski in a white-out with shushy snow.

I have a spectacular 30-metre fall-bounce — and then cheer up, as I have beaten everyone else to the bottom.

Come lunchtime, Rose and Miranda are whisked away to our chalet by the nanny. I wobble across to Hospiz-Alm in St Christoph, where glorious young men in leather britches serve gargantuan platters — the spare ribs look like half a pig.

Of all the lunch places in the area, this is the best, and it has a built-in, adult-sized slide

down to the loos. Post-lunch and glühwein, I slip down (OK, I tumble and fall down) to the nursery slopes, where Rose and Miranda are doing pizza pies, known as snow ploughs in my day. No ski sticks of course, and quite happy.

A nanny, spotting me lurking near the nursery slopes pretending that I am waxing my skis/testing my bindings/doing warm-up exercises, patiently explains, using all her copious diplomatic skills, that Rose and Miranda are very happy.

They can choose sledding or snowman-making or anything else during the afternoon and should anything happen to them — which it won't — they will be able to reach me. OK, OK, so I should stop interfering.

All children are collected at about 4 o'clock whether or not the parents have been interfering. By this time, the ski boots are back in the drying room and the children are in dry clothes. Magically.

I have had nothing to do with this laborious process. Parents bring offspring to high tea at five-ish, all prepared and set out by the nannies (the tea, that is).

Bath, reading and bed for Rose and Miranda, and when

**FACT FILE**

- Jane Owen travelled with Mark Warner Holidays (0171-393 3168). Prices at the Chalethotel Rosanna, St Anton, which sleeps up to 89, start at £399 for one week per adult (based on two sharing a room, including flights, accommodation, half-board and transfers) and rise to £787 during school half-term holidays in February. Cost for a child between the ages of 2 and 15, sharing parents' room, is £200 less than the adult price.
- Ski and boot hire from Ski Sport Fauner, 6580 St Anton a Arlberg, Tirol, Austria (00 43 5446 2413) costs £64 per child and £95 per adult.

coach from the airport (children's videos all the way, much to the disgust of some of the child-free guests) and so I guess they might try to visit her while the grown-ups are revelling downstairs. No way. They are sound asleep, worn out by the skiing.

Older children — and mine were not completely exhausted — watch videos in the nursery while their parents dine downstairs.

Après ski... perhaps not. I felt too ancient, and anyway the company at the chalet was brilliant.

Some parents spend one day towards the end of the week skiing with the children. I vow never to let Rose and Miranda see me ski. It would put them off for life. And terrify them. So, while mums and dads whirl down slopes with little people between their legs, Rose and Miranda and I take a day out to build snowmen and go window-shopping.

Parents (and one set of grandparents) I spoke to gave almost full marks to this child-and-parent-friendly holiday. The only complaints were the quality of the inclusive wine (staggering in every sense) and the fact that the charter flight was a day late on the return journey.



Never too young to start: and when children tire of the slopes, they can always go sledding or make a snowman

Continued from page 28

with Snowbiz Vacances (01778 341455) offering a Junior Ski Club for six to 12-year-olds. The Ski Club of Great Britain (0181-410 2000) has "specials" in the school holidays and at half-term. Top Ski (00 334 7906 1480) in Val d'Isère arranges courses for children: The Thomson British Ski Academy in Les Houches, France (01932 242882) is for budding racers.

THE resort to suit them and you will have plenty of après-



Young skiers are high on the agenda at many resorts

TOUR operator crèches generally take over the whole floor of an apartment or chalet, or a large hotel room. They are staffed by qualified nannies.

ski, but not all of it at exorbitant prices. Val d'Isère, Courchevel, St Anton and Verbier are the hottest resorts for this age group. Club Med (0171-581 1161) has a flexible programme for teenagers during the French school holidays and McGarry's Teen Top Race Clinics (0181-399 5823) are held in Châtel.

TOUR operator crèches generally take over the whole floor of an apartment or chalet, or a large hotel room. They are staffed by qualified nannies.

● Is the service for five or six days? As a week's holiday constitutes six full days, childcare needs to cover the whole period, otherwise you will be left holding the baby.

● Is lunch provided? It is inconvenient to have to collect your children at lunchtime and return them afterwards, particularly in a large ski area. At the best crèches, staff escort children from morning ski school, give them lunch, and either return them to their class or care for them until the end of the day.

● Check how many children are looked after by each nanny. Ratios of nannies to children vary, with operators quoting an average of one nanny to two or three babies (under two years), or one nanny to three or four children (aged two to five).

● Some tour operators employ private nannies who might ideally be shared by two families. The nanny will come to your chalet with toys and games, take your children for walks and cook lunch.

● If you are staying in a chalet, the staff will normally prepare an early supper for children and your tour operator or the local tourist office should be able to arrange evening babysitting.

THESE may be less flexible than the tour operator versions, and staff fluency in English varies. I was 15 minutes late taking my son to a crèche in France and was told that he therefore could not join the morning session and should return after lunch, which meant no skiing for me.

The North American kindergartens are the leaders by a long stretch, although one French resort is their equal: the state-of-the-art Garderie in Vaujany. Here children can be dropped off and collected at any time of day, and older children are accompanied between crèche and ski school.

WHEN taking children for the first time, borrow clothing from friends and hire boots and skis in the resort. But it is worth investing in a warm ski jacket which is useful for the journey, after skiing and at home. A jacket and salopettes are more flexible than a one-piece suit and essentials include Thinsulate or Gore-Tex mittens, a hat and goggles. Helmets are vital for pre-teens, and do not send your child out skiing with sunscreen of less than factor 15, whatever the weather.

In North America, you will almost definitely experience much lower temperatures than in Europe, with the east coast resorts and Canada the coldest of all. Your children will need glove liners to wear under mittens, plus thermal vests and long johns or an all-in-one fleece.

The Canadian skiwear manufacturer Couloir is known for its scientific clothing for adults, and you can now buy child-sized versions in branches of Snow & Rock (mail order: 01932 569569) at £99.95 for a one-piece suit.

FLYING is the quickest, but often the most stressful, way to travel. Avoid resorts with long airport-transfer times. Driving to the French Alps may be easier and cheaper — with two drivers you can tackle the journey in a single day. Eurostar (0345 303030) is a serious contender with a daytime Saturday service from Waterloo to Mothers and Bour-St-Maurice.

If you are hiring a car at the other end, take your own baby seat. The extra rental cost is outrageous and the seat provided is rarely the right size.

The following tour operators have a crèche or nanny service:

- Airtravels (01706 260000)
- Snowflake Club at Les Deux Alpes five days a week
- Club Med (0171-581 1161)
- Sixteen holiday villages with own crèches and ski schools six days a week. Cot and potty provided in every bedroom, sterilisers and food mixers available.
- Collineige (01276 24262)
- Small, flexible operator to Chamonix Valley with a nanny and local au pair.
- Crystal (0181-399 5144)
- Nanny service five days a week in 13 resorts. One night's free babysitting. Escort service, lunchtime care for older children.
- Inglands (0181-780 4444)
- Shared nanny service in 11 resorts five to six days per week. Private nannies available.
- Mark Warner (0171-393 3131)
- Crèches in six resorts six days per week. Childminding and ski school escort service. Free evening babysitting service.
- Meriski (01451 844788)
- Crèche in Méribel six days per week with escort service. Private nannies available.
- Neilson (0990 994444)
- Kindergarten in four resorts six days per week. Chalet nanny service in three resorts.

**OPERATORS**

- Powder Byrne (0181-571 3300)
- Free crèche for hotel guests in Films: also in Ghrindelwald and Zermatt part of the season. Ski school escort service. Babysitting and private nannies available.
- Silver Ski (01622 735544)
- Crèche at La Plagne six days a week, with escort service.
- Simply Ski (0181-742 2541)
- Crèches at Montchavin and Courchevel 1900. Clubs for older children, with ski school escorting and lunch. Private nanny service in Verbier. Babysitting one day per week in Courchevel and Montchavin.
- The Ski Company (0171-730 9600)
- Au pairs during high season. Children's supper and free babysitting.
- Ski Spirit (01252 616789)
- Specialist family operator with crèches six days a week in six resorts. Ski Sprites ski lessons five days a week. Ski school escort service with lunch and activities. One night's free babysitting.
- Ski Famille (01223 363777)
- Free crèche in each of the five chalets in Les Gets on five days per week. Lunch provided if required. Ski school escort service on the sixth day.
- Ski Hillwood (0181-866 9993)
- Crèches in Les Gets and Sall six days a week. Escort service and after-skiing activities five days a week. Free child supervision six evenings per week.
- Ski Olympic (01302 390120)
- Flexible service with crèche with lunch in three resorts for six days per week.
- Ski Peak (01252 794944)
- Specialist operator to Vaujany with flexible crèche six days a week. Children's supper and babysitting by arrangement.
- Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202)
- Crèche in Courchevel 1850, six days a week with lunch. Escort service for crèche, ski school and ski kindergarten. Private nanny service in Val d'Isère, Méribel and Zermatt.
- Snowbiz Vacances (01778 341455)
- Flexible crèche in Puy-St-Vincent six days per week, children bring their own lunch. Kids' club six evenings per week.
- Snowline Holidays (0181-870 4807)
- Nanny service in chalets and hotel in Champoussin including lunch.
- Thomson (0990 329239)
- Sixteen Family Choice resorts. Kids' Clubs in ten resorts. Après-ski care and entertainment three evenings a week. Babysitting by arrangement.

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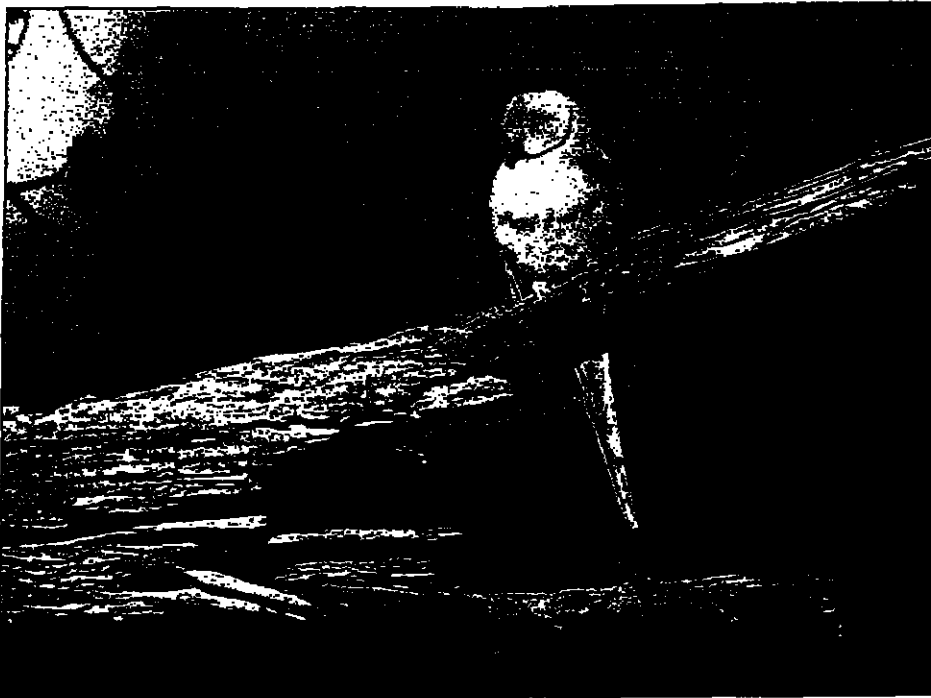
BIRDS: WHERE AND WHEN TO SEE THEM



Eyes left: dedicated birders flock together in large numbers whatever the season, creating a spectacle of themselves



Paradise for twitchers: violet touraco, left, an African speciality, and the rarely seen white-backed night heron, right



Who's a pretty boy then: male rose-necked parakeet, inhabitant of The Gambia

## Dawn chorus on a wing and a prayer

In the hour before daybreak, darkness intensifies, the insects fall silent, and The Gambia's tropical pungency declines to no more than a delicate, anaemic trace. The streets are lifeless. Anyone with a mind to be up at this time of the morning could claim dominion over Banjul, for even the night-watchmen are asleep, curled tight in shuttered shop doorways.

Driving through the capital in the open back of a Land Rover, I have no such design. My primary purpose is to reach Lamin Lodge, a rustic riverside restaurant, before first light. With the eastern sky beginning to lighten, the vehicle's progress is ticked away by the pendulum swing of the binoculars dangling from my neck.

The lodge is a 30-minute drive south of Banjul, along the airport road and then a short stretch of rutted dirt track. Eventually it appears ahead of us: an inky, ramshackle silhouette etched against the blossoming dawn.

On foot, I am directed across a pier to a creaky, Swiss Family Robinson style of architecture built on two stilts over water. I am soon joined by 30 other tourists collected from a succession of beachside resorts and we sit hushed, sipping coffee and listening to the tentative first notes of the dawn chorus.

When there is enough light, we are ushered into a trio of dug-outs fashioned from the trunks of the kapok, Africa's largest tree, and cast off into what is now revealed to be a broad mangrove creek. The tide is steadily rolling in and the oarsmen — one to a boat — labour against it as they paddle us to midstream. Our departure is heralded by a fly-past of rose-necked parakeets.

Solomon, our guide, identifies a dozen more birds while we struggle to look up the parakeets in our bird books. With a lifetime of experience, he can instantly identify species by their jizz — an instinctive amalgam of shape, sound and movement. Despite our more analytical approach, we never catch him out.

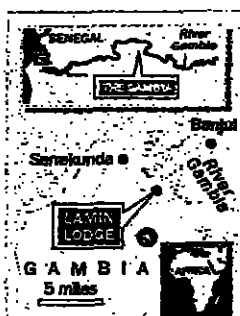
The mangrove channels fraying both banks of the River Gambia have contributed to this tiny nation's legend among international bird-watchers. More than 200 species (out of The Gambia's total of 540) have been recorded within these labyrinthine waterways.

Some of the birds are familiar: either winter migrants from Europe (accounting for a third of the country's species) or variations on common themes — pigeons, pied crows, black magpies and nine types of kingfisher.

### FACT FILE

■ Richard Newton travelled with The Gambia Experience (01703 750888). The company operates birdwatching tours escorted by Clive Barlow, author of *Field Guide to Birds of the Gambia* (Pica Press, £26). The tours use the Banjul-based agent West African Tours.

■ A one-week birdwatching tour costs £774 between January



I-21. Prices rise to £866 at Easter, to include flights, all transport, two nights at the Atlantic Hotel and camp hut accommodation, on a half-board basis.

■ While birdwatching is a year-round activity in The Gambia, the best times to go are before the rains (which come in June), or during the winter months (Nov-Jan) for the best viewing of migrants.

## Watch out for the bald spot

Skiing will bring more visitors to Whistler this winter than ever before. Most will miss the sign to Squamish. Whistler's poorer neighbour, on the Sea to Sky Highway 40 miles north of Vancouver. Yet the dense hemlock, fir and cedar forest abutting Route 99 conceals a spectacle worthy of a trip to the British Columbia coast.

### Birders who yearn to see a bald eagle should visit the Squamish River, British Columbia, in winter

States' favourite symbols of strength and stability, the birds were hunted and poisoned to near-extinction before the 1960s. Even today few people, bird enthusiasts included, have ever seen a bald eagle so it is quite a thrill to see several, let alone hundreds, in a single day. The eagles, for their part, seem to be getting used to the sight of tourists dressed in orange life-jackets and perched precariously on the edge of lurid yellow rafts.

It is a typically damp, raw Squamish morning when we go eagle-spotting. The air is rank from the smell of rotting salmon on the gravel bars — the fish die in their hundreds of thousands after the long journey up the river to spawn. Two groups of visitors spot their first bald eagle within minutes of taking to the water. The excitement appears to be one-sided as the bird sits unmoved by the noise of frantic whispers and a dozen

shutter releases. One of my fellow passengers wonders whether the eagle has seen us. Our guide explains that an eagle can see a rabbit move from a mile away, and that an eagle flying at 1,000 feet can see prey over an area of three square miles. The chances are it spotted us half an hour before we saw it.

Biologists from the Nature Conservancy of Canada have been studying the eagles' habits for four winters. The birds have been coming since the salmon began arriving to spawn — long before Captain George Vancouver set foot here in 1792; probably before the Squamish people began hunting in the valley they called Squamish, or "mother of the wind".

The Squamish is one of the few rivers that has a late chum run. The spoils represent a huge source of food accessible from November through to February on a river that does not freeze. For the next three months eagles will daily gorge themselves, devouring up to a tenth of their body weight in fish — as much as half a kilo.

By the end of February the feast is over, but a few eagles remain in the valley for the summer. Breeding birds defend large territories to raise their young. In winter, territories break down, amply illustrated by cottonwoods wilting under the weight of so many raptors, six or seven to a tree, perched like chandeliers.

From a raft it is hard to miss some of their habits. Eagles are creatures of precision. While gulls rip indiscriminately through rotting salmon carcasses, bald eagles first eat the eyes and then, via a swift incision, scoop out the brain. They appear to be little bothered by gulls and crows. A few take flight at the sight of our bright rafts but most remain regally on their perches, eyeing their next meal.

Pairs mate for life, though affairs are possible — usually in the first year of "marriage", according to biologists. Younger eagles (identified by their lack of white head plumage — bald eagles minus the bald spot) sit on lower branches, apparently leaving better vantage points for older birds.

By journey's end, estimates of bald eagles seen vary between 500 and 800 depending on which boat's crew you believe. But exact numbers do not matter — this is one of the great sights of nature.

NEVILLE JUDD

### FACT FILE

■ Human encroachment on the eagles' habitat is an important part of scientists' research. Raptor is considered one of the less obtrusive ways of seeing them: there are also eagle-watching programmes on foot with volunteer guides.

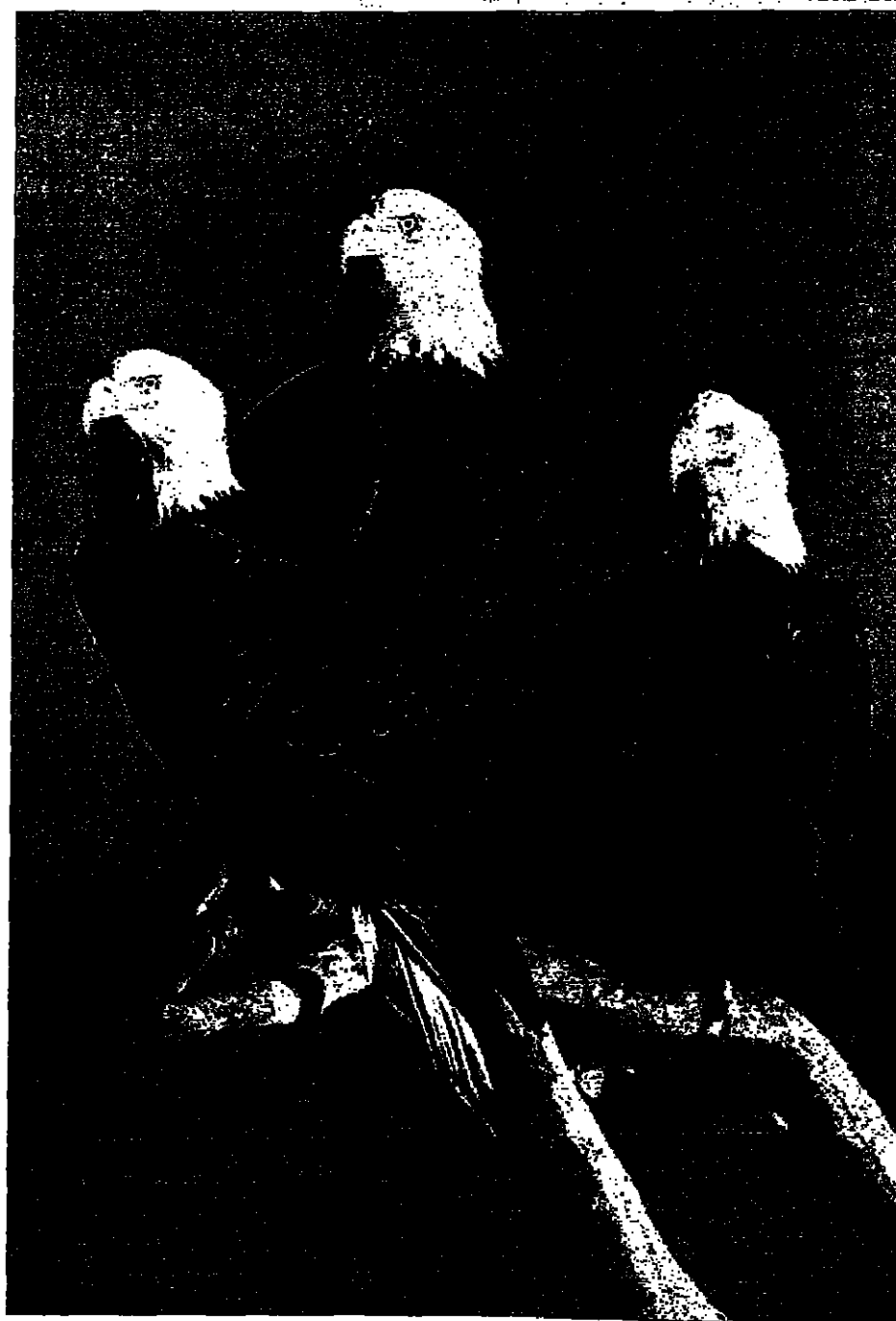
■ Eagles are best seen from viewing shelters on the Squamish River at Brackendale, north of Squamish off Highway 99. Eagle warden volunteers are available 9:30am-3:30pm on weekends from December 13 to February 15. For more information, including accommodation details, call the Squamish Chamber of Commerce (604 604 892 9244).

■ The Canadian Outback Adventure Company (800 565 5735) offers guided river raft trips for about £45 (£60 with transport) including lunch. It also offers "Eagle Festival" two-night packages with Vancouver hotel accommodation.

■ Brackendale-based SunWolf Outdoor Centre (604 604 898 1537) offers a "Sleep with Eagles" package for about £85 for two (double occupancy), with cabin accommodation and boat trip.

■ The eagle population peaks in early January, when Brackendale hosts the month-long Winter Eagle Festival.

■ Squamish is between Vancouver and Whistler and less than an hour's drive on Highway 99 from either. It is better known to climbers for the Stawamus Chief, the world's second largest monolith after the Rock of Gibraltar.



Spot the birdie: bald eagles can see their prey over an area of three square miles

### WHERE TO SPOT A BIRD IN WINTER

FOR most birders the dream destination has to be the Seychelles. With 115 islands to choose from, the best choice is a combination of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. From here, additional day excursions can be made to Cousin and Aride. For the unforgettable experience of seeing more than a million sooty terns on their nests, an overnight stay on Bird Island is recommended.

However, the ultimate "Grip-off" (slang for incurring the envy of all your colleagues) is to see the Seychelles magpie robin on Cousin or Fregate. With just 40 or so left in the wild, this is now one of the world's rarest birds. It is only recently that The Gambia's potential for bird-watching has been fully recognised. The Abuko Forest,

only eight miles from the capital of Banjul, combines the ingredients of tropical forest, lily-covered pools and savannah grassland. Among the most attractive birds here are the kingfishers including giant, pygmy and pied. Nearly one million Britons travel to Florida every year although relatively few will be looking for birds. Yet just next to the Cape Kennedy space centre is the extensive Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, where many hundreds of herons and egrets nest. This is also a staging post for migrant wading birds that on their journeys to and from South America.

To escape completely from the depths of winter and also experience the holiday of a lifetime, the best choice must be Australia. The state of Queensland, in particular, offers a remarkable range of habitats with tropical forests and coral reefs meeting at the coastline near Cairns. Among the most elusive forest birds is the southern cassowary — an ostrich-like species with a reputation for ferocious attacks on humans who get too close.

A three-week trip to Australia can yield a list of nearly 400 species. One highlight is a visit to the Great Barrier Reef, and specifically to the tiny coral sand spit called Michmas Cay. Here you will land in the middle of a massive colony of sea birds, including common noddies. Closer to home are two excellent lakes that lie about 80 miles east of Paris. The Lac Der du Chantecoq and Lac de la Forêt d'Orient were built to take excess water from the rivers Marne and Seine so flooding in Paris could be prevented. Now they are the winter home for several white-tailed sea eagles and up to 300 common cranes. This is a popular choice for weekend breaks by car. But be warned: it can be cold, and visitors should take thermal clothing.

KEITH BETTON

■ Specialist bird-watching holiday companies include Naturewerk (01962 733051); Birdquest (01254 826377); Wildwings (01779 804040); Sunbird (01767 652969); Limosa (01263 578143); Ornithology (01243 864513).

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At the Great Wall we opt for a picnic at Jinshanling, miles from the crowds and the vendors. In Guilin, we head for the Yaoshan Mountain for the most magnificent views over the undulating hills around Guilin. All these are in addition to the usual highlights of the Middle Kingdom - Xian's Terracotta Army, the waterfront of Shanghai, the gardens and canals of Suzhou and the magical cruise through the spectacular Li River of Guilin. At CTS Horizons, China is more than just another destination.

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# Star trekkers' rewarding mission



**Mike Gerrard  
braves the wrath  
of a pride of lions  
on an African  
adventure – all for  
a worthy cause**

**E**uphoric was how Rita Hamilton-Burgin felt. A different word might have been expected from someone who had just walked 120 miles in six days in temperatures of up to 120 degrees, especially as she had never before done anything more energetic than walking her dogs in West Sussex. But she was emphatic: "You feel you've got Africa coming up through the soles of your feet."

Rita and her husband Stephen, a cabinet-maker, had joined myself and 23 others for a sponsored walk in the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania, while 18 more were nearby doing a sponsored climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Together, the two groups raised £40,000 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and that is a small proportion of the hundreds of thousands of pounds being raised these days for charities through sponsored hikes and bike rides.

From Ireland to China, from Iceland to Uganda, today's holiday trend is to combine a good time with a good cause.

It was a tough time, too, as those on Trek Tanzania discovered. It was unseasonably hot in September and even the Masai who accompanied the walk were complaining about the heat.

The route took us through lion territory, and no one was allowed to stray from their walking group and its two Masai guides. To reinforce the warning, a lion was heard roaring outside our first night's camp in the bush. A tent has never felt so flimsy, but the guards chased it away. At one time a Masai man had to kill a lion with his bare hands before he could become a warrior, a feat achieved by a group of them surrounding a lion at night, chanting and dancing as they closed in on the animal, until the would-be warrior plunged in for the kill.

It is one of the few Masai traditions to have died out, as we discovered while talking to our guides on the walk, or round the campfire at night. Our occasional pains – blisters, scratches from the fear-



The two groups that took part in Trek Tanzania, accompanied by Masai guides, raised £40,000 for the NSPCC. Donations are also made to local eye clinics, where sight-saving operations are carried out

some thorn trees, a few tummy upsets – were dwarfed by this and other delights walking by a family of giraffe, past herds of zebra, visiting a Masai village in part of the Rift Valley seldom seen by trekkers, watching the sun rise in the morning, walking 20 miles and then watching it set again over Ol Doinyo Lengai, the Masai Mountain of God, an active volcano that rises 9,500ft towards the heavens.

By the time we passed beneath Lengai's ash-dark slopes, the end of our trek was in sight. That last day had been the toughest of all. We rose with the sun, foot-slogged for hours over a desert-like scrub where shade was something we could only dream about, then our footsteps echoed over Lengai's hardened lava, where the white bones of cattle lay scorched by the sun. Finally we reached the shade of an acacia tree and rested, exhausted, before hauling ourselves over the last small ridge to the camp, and



While crossing Tanzania on foot is exhausting, it also has its rewards, such as a giraffe sighting (left); trekkers take a break near the Mountain of God (right)



the promise of the cold river running beside it. It was the hardest walk of my life, and the most rewarding week I have ever spent. I looked at my £90 walking boots, and the cut-up bits of

old car tyre some of our Masai guides were wearing. I thought of the village school we visited, where there was no chalk for the blackboard, and of the eye clinic, where we handed over a

cheque for \$5,000 (about £3,000): the NSPCC supports a local Masai project each year from the money raised. Our \$5,000 would pay for more than 800 cataract operations, restoring the sight of

blind Masai. We may not have much ourselves, but compared with the people who live in places like rural Tanzania, to borrow a phrase from Paul Simon's song, we really have got diamonds on the soles of

our shoes. And by pounding the earth or pumping the pedals with them in a good cause, we can at least hope to make a bit of difference.

year from September 25 to October 8. The cost will be £1,975, and you will be asked to raise an additional sum for the NSPCC.

Further information from Megan Munsell (0171-825 2605).

## Diana dresses go on display to raise funds

"SHE was a wonderful woman", said Maureen Rorech, whose collection of 14 dresses once owned by Diana, Princess of Wales, went on display at the Tampa Museum of Art in Florida this week, writes Tom Chesshyre.

Ms Rorech decided to exhibit the dresses, which she bought at a Christie's charity auction in June in London, to help raise funds for charities including AIDS, cancer and children's groups, and the Red Cross.

Among the dresses on display are: a blue silk dinner dress that the Princess wore when she danced with John Travolta at the White House; a burgundy velvet dinner dress which she wore to the preview of *Back to the Future* in 1985; and a classic white dinner dress by Catherine Walker first worn when Diana met the King and Queen of Malaysia in 1993.

The display stays in Tampa until December 7 before moving to a museum in Athens in Georgia, and then Washington DC, early next year. It is scheduled to reach London in June 2000. More than 3,500 tickets at \$11.50 (about £7) in advance have been sold. Media attention has been lavish and on opening day the display room was packed.

Internet site: [www.princessdresses.com](http://www.princessdresses.com)

Tampa Museum of Art: 001 813 274 8130



The Princess in blue silk

## CHARITY BEGINS ON HOLIDAY



JOINING a charity holiday generally involves paying a registration fee of £200-£300. You also commit yourself to raising a certain

amount in donations and sponsorship, usually £2,000-£3,000. The registration and sponsorship pays for all the costs of the trip, except for personal spending money. The remainder goes to the charity. Oxfam, for instance, raised £80,000 from one such holiday last spring, while Guide Dogs for the Blind benefited by £100,000 when 95 people joined their summer bike ride in Russia. Some of the charity treks and bike rides planned for 1998 include:

**JAN 30-FEB 8**  
HELPS (01273 453511), Health Education Literacy Population Services: it supports and educates women and children in southern India. Charity walk in India covers 86 miles from Bangalore to Mysore. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,000.

**FEB 7-14**  
National Deaf Children's Society (0171-490 8656). Bike ride through Jordan from Amman to Aqaba. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,000.

**FEB 21-MARCH 1**  
The Children's Society (0171-278 5769). Egyptian Experience bike ride. Registration £250, sponsorship £1,975.

**MARCH 7-15 and OCT 17-25**  
Norwood Ravenswood (0181-954 4555), charity for socially disadvantaged children. Kenya Experience cycling safari. Registration £400, sponsorship £2,000.

**MARCH 14-22**  
NCH Action for Children (0171-704 7019). The Big Bike Ride, from the Pyramids to the Red Sea. Registration £220, sponsorship £2,000.

**MARCH 21-28**  
ASPIRE (0181-954 0701), the Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabilitation and Reintegration. Trek from the Red Sea to the top of Mount Sinai. Registration: £195, sponsorship £2,000.

**MARCH 28-APRIL 5**  
British Heart Foundation (0500 200 575). Jordan Desert Hike. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150.

**APRIL 25-MAY 3**  
Norwood Ravenswood (0282 954 4555). Bike ride from Mount Sinai to Jerusalem. Registration £400, sponsorship £2,000. Repeated in Oct.

**MAY 30-JUNE 6**  
British Heart Foundation (0500 200 575). Iceland Bike Ride. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150.

**MAY 31-JUNE 8**  
Scope (0500 575222). The Great Wall of China 60-mile hike. Registration £195, sponsorship £2,000.

**JUNE 13-21**  
Guide Dogs for the Blind (01539 735080). Crossing the Atlas Mountains. Deposit £220, sponsorship £2,000.

**JULY 3-12**  
Friends of Russian Children (0171-404 7766). Helsinki to St Petersburg Bike Ride. £200 registration, £2,000 sponsorship – or £3,500 if you sign up for the following ride.

**JULY 15-26**  
Friends of Russian Children (0171-404 7766). St Petersburg to Moscow Bike

Ride, about 450 miles. £200 registration, £2,000 sponsorship.

**JULY 31-AUGUST 9**  
Scope (0500 575222). The Russian Bike Away, from St Petersburg to Moscow. Registration £195, sponsorship £2,000.

**SEPT 5-13**  
British Heart Foundation (0500 200575). Greece bike ride from Mount Olympus to Delphi, about 225 miles. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150.

**OCTOBER**  
Leonard Cheshire (0141-332 1811). African Tracks, 250-mile bike ride across Uganda to raise money for disabled people. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,300.

**OCT 17-25**  
apa (0171-251 5860), which works to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol. The Three Seas Cycle Challenge visits the Mediterranean, Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,500.

**OCT 24-NOV 1**  
World ORT Union (0171-446 8500), a Jewish educational charity. Navigating the Bible bike ride, about 200 miles from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, or a hike on the same Exodus route. Registration £300, sponsorship £2,200.

**OCT 31-NOV 8**  
Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (contact Dorothy MacKenzie, 0131-313 3828). The 7th Nazareth Hospital Bike Ride, about 220 miles through Galilee. Registration £150, sponsorship £2,000.

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16 Dec	£649	23/25/28 Feb	£459
22/23 Dec	£869	09 Mar	£529
30 Dec	£649	30 Mar	£599
12/16/19 Jan '98	£349	06 Apr	£699
22/27/29 Jan	£349	20/27 Apr	£599

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# The doomed ship that refuses to die

ULSTER FOLK & TRANSPORT MUSEUM

**Tom Chesshyre visits a new exhibition that shows the ill-fated Titanic still captures imaginations**

The largest collection of artefacts recovered from the *Titanic* went on show in St Petersburg, Florida, last week. More than 300 objects from the ill-fated ocean liner, which sank after hitting an iceberg on April 15, 1912, include chandeliers, diamond necklaces, a steward's jacket, porthole covers, watches, a bronze cherub and two bottles of champagne, remarkably still with their corks intact.

The exhibition, which runs until May 15 before moving to either Boston, Massachusetts, or San Diego, California, also has several displays detailing the circumstances in the run-up to the sinking, in which almost 1,500 people died, as well as models of the *Titanic* and newspaper reports from *The Times*.

Millvina Dean, a survivor who was nine weeks old at the time and now lives in Southampton, was at the opening of the Florida exhibition. "Although I can't remember a thing about the sinking I spent my whole life wondering about it, especially what happened to my father [who died]. The exhibition explains it all very clearly," she says.

Advanced ticket sales suggest that the exhibition will be a hit: already more than 92,000 have been sold, and interest in the *Titanic* has been heightened recently by the publicity for the new Hollywood film *Titanic*, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio, which had its British premiere last week



April 1912: the tug *Vulcan* pulls the huge, new liner *Titanic* away from the White Star company's Berth 44 at Southampton before the fateful crossing of the Atlantic

and is due to go on general release early next year.

George Tulloch, the president of RMS Titanic, the American company that holds the salvage rights to the *Titanic* and put the exhibition together, is very pleased with the response. "It looks as

though we can expect 100,000 visitors a month — we seem to be experiencing some kind of *Titanic* mania," he says.

Tours of the exhibition last about an hour and a half. One section has a re-creation of a deck overlooking a star-filled sky. "Isn't it wonderful," said

Jamie Peterson, aged 47, of Slough, Berkshire. "You feel like you could almost be there. I've discovered a lot about the *Titanic* that I didn't know."

There has been some concern about the taste of some of the souvenirs in the gift shop. A plastic drinking cup with a

lifebelt "floating" at the bottom was withdrawn before the opening, because organisers realised it might be considered offensive.

Another souvenir, which is still raising eyebrows, is a battery-operated inflatable *Titanic*, with inflatable ice-

berg, at \$19.99 (£11.75) for playing with in the bath. "It's a bit sick," said Beatrice Penrice, 34, from Glasgow.

But Nanette Briggs, who was on holiday from Atlanta, said: "The whole exhibition strikes just the right balance. It was obviously a terrible

tragedy but it has been handled with sensitivity."

• *"Titanic: The Exhibition"* is at the Florida International Museum (001 813 822 3093). Tickets cost \$13.95, seniors 65-plus \$12.95, full-time students \$5.95, children under five admitted free.

## Seating 'tax' on tall people

BOOKING seats next to the emergency exits could add nearly £500 to the holiday bill of a family flying to Florida, *Tom Chesshyre* and *Steve Keenan* write.

Thomson will charge customers £60 each way for four seats on Britannia Airways, its sister airline, on long-haul flights to destinations including Florida and the Caribbean. The move is being studied by rivals, including Airtours and First Choice.

If booked both ways by a family of four, the cost would be £480 — adding an average 25 per cent to the typical Florida holiday bill.

On short-haul flights to the Mediterranean, the seats, which have 36in of space, compared to 28-30in normally will cost £30 each way. Previously, they would have been offered to customers more than 6ft 4in tall. Thomson describes the move as "an additional service".

Charging for space is just one of several additional costs Thomson has introduced for services that, it could be argued, should be free. They include an executive check-in, costing £35, which speeds you through the check-in process to a special departure lounge; and pre-bookable seats, at £5 per person per flight, which guarantees that families sit together.

CHARGING extra for emergency exit seats was tried three years ago by Somak Holidays on charters to Kenya. The company charged up to £55 a seat for a year before introducing a first-class cabin. Ash Sofat, the managing director, said: "They were always full."

Four operators have since tried various ways of charging for extras which help alleviate the misery of a packed overnight charter flight. Airtours introduced pre-bookable seats a year ago, charging £10. It makes the same charge for a choice of meals.

Thomson says it will keep some emergency exit seats and those at the front of the plane for tall or disabled people. But tall people are upset that seats for which they were given preference are now being sold.

The Tall Persons Club for Great Britain and Ireland says the policy is unfair, and a spokesman for the menswear chain High & Mighty, said: "Emergency exit seats are important for tall people, who are important customers and should be looked after."

The Air Transport Users Council agrees. "It is unfortunate that seats that should go to people with long legs are going to those with money."

Under Civil Aviation Authority rules, exit seats must be filled by able-bodied people in case of an emergency.

**Hong Kong ding-dong**

AIR FARES to Hong Kong have gone Chinese crackers with one-way prices for the New Year from £88.

BA Holidays began the fire-sale, with three-night hotel/flight packages for £299; more than 2,000 holidays sold within days. Qantas Holidays then dropped the price to £275. Cathay Pacific offered a £549 fare for two.

The cheapest offer is from Campus Travel — one-way flights for £88 (return, £176) to students or those under 26. The offers run from January 1 until February 15, and must be booked by November 27.

This is traditionally a quiet sales period, and the post-holiday hangover has also seen sales to Hong Kong fall.

## PACK YOUR BAGS

□ **MURDER** most horrid: Woolcombe Bay Hotel (01271 870388), Woolcombe, Devon, invites you to deduce whodunnit next Friday. The murder mystery weekend includes two nights' half-board accommodation and full use of the health suite and sports facilities for £145 per person.

QUEST Worldwide (0181-547 3322) is offering reduced air fares to the Middle East until December 10. Returns from Heathrow to Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Muscat and Doha cost from £324, excluding taxes.

□ **FRENCH GOLF** Holidays (01277 374374) is offering seven nights B&B accommodation at the Frigate Hotel, near Bandon, which has its own course overlooking the sea. The price of £475 includes buggy hire, one day on the Barbaroux course, and return crossings on Le Shuttle, based on four people sharing a car.

NEXT Saturday is your last chance for a reduced fare to Perth, Western Australia. British Airways and Qantas (0345 747767) have combined to offer return flights for £749 per person, excluding tax. Departing daily from Heathrow via Bangkok or Singapore until Saturday, and returning between January 21 and March 31 1998.

□ **FINE wine, good food** and a spot of walking are offered on Winerails' (01306 712111) tailor-made itineraries. For example: four nights B&B

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Birmingham - Amsterdam	£99 easyJet/£109 via BA	£290 BA	
London - Belfast	from £58 JEA (ex-Standed/Gatwick)	£138 JEA (ex-Standed/Gatwick)	
London - Edinburgh	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£138 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	
London - Hamburg	£90 Air UK/KLM (ex-Heathrow/Standed/City)	£442 BA (ex-Heathrow)	
Manchester - Madrid	£99 Iberia	£810 Iberia	
London - Munich	from £98 Debonair (ex-Luton)	£426 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	
London - New York	£169 Virgin Atlantic (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£344 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	
London - Paris	£59 easyJet/£69 via BA (ex-Heathrow)	£218 BA (ex-Heathrow)	
Edinburgh - Vienna	£126 Air UK/KLM	£716 BA	
Airline telephone numbers			
Air UK/KLM 0950 074074	easyJet 0980 262929	Baie 0171-830 0011	
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accommodation in the Douro valley, Portugal, for £455 per person, includes a river boat trip, port tasting and estate visits, car hire, return flights and airport transfers. Departs from Heathrow or Gatwick any day next week.

BEGINNING next Friday the Landmark London Hotel

JOANNA HUNTER

## Egypt visitors defy warnings

HUNDREDS of Britons are ignoring Foreign Office warnings to avoid Luxor after the massacre of 58 tourists on the Nile last Monday.

Thomas Cook Holidays is to continue with three tours this month. However, British Airways Holidays has taken Egypt off sale until the end of next year.

TC Holidays also offered immediate repatriation to 140 customers in Egypt at the time of the massacre but only six took up the offer. The remaining 134 are continuing their holidays, with a party of 27 due in Luxor on Tuesday.

The Foreign Office this week "strongly advised" tourists to avoid the Luxor area until further notice.

But Simon Laxton, general manager of Thomas Cook Holidays, said: "We have made everybody aware of the FO advice but they still want to go to Luxor — so we are letting them."

Kuoni and Abercrombie & Kent are also allowing customers to travel but insist they sign a disclaimer. "There are a lot of people who still want to travel," a Kuoni spokeswoman said.

Several other firms have also temporarily abandoned tours. Saga Holidays has scrapped two departures and refunded or offered alternative holidays to 60 customers booked to travel.

## Student's article in *The Times* wins new travel award



Tom Griffiths used his gap year to good effect: he saw the world from a different angle

The rewards of taking a year off to travel before university formed the basis of a *Times* article which has won Tom Griffiths the accolade of Young Travel Writer of the Year. Mr Griffiths, now 23, is the inaugural winner of the competition, sponsored by Travel South USA and the industry newspaper *Travel Trade Gazette*.

He used his gap year to good effect. He saw the world, wrote the book and has now collected a trophy. At 18, he considered himself too young to start university. He also wanted a break from studying.

After seven months' working at a McDonald's in Ipswich, he was off: Los Angeles was followed by Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Mr Griffiths is only one of 200,000 British youngsters who take a gap year between school and university, but few will have used their time so well. His observations fuelled the idea for the award-winning article in *The Times* last June and a book, *Before You*

## How to fill that gap year

Go, which is a rich vein of information for wannabe travellers.

Much advice was practical, from carrying multivitamins, to duplicating passport details and packing a medical kit, including sterilised needles.

Other tips were thoughtful: women, married or not, should carry a wedding ring to avoid unwanted attention; everyone should pack a sarong — useful as a towel, drying-up cloth, sheet and wrap.

On his return to Britain, Mr Griffiths studied economics at Manchester University. But the travel bug continued to bite. Russia and Canada have been ticked off the list, and he has eyes on South America while pursuing a career in

television. He wrote in *The Times*: "I have the self-belief and the confidence that I can do anything and succeed at whatever I do. It may sound arrogant, but that is what travel has done for me."

He has been invited to give travel talks and plans a second book, but says that paying bills has been tough, and the award is a timely flip.

"I was surprised when I heard that I had won the title," he said. "It is difficult slogging away with little money and having something like this has given me a huge boost."

Glenn Corvillan, managing director of Travel South USA, said: "The overwhelming choice of our panel of judges, Tom writes with an enthusiasm and energy that is captivating. He embodies the very attributes for which the award was designed."

The trophy — and the prize of a holiday in the southern US — was presented to Mr Griffiths at the World Travel Market in London this week.

## Battle of the peanut planes

There'll be tears on the Tarmac if BA starts price war, says Steve Keenan

THREE small airlines are this weekend consolidating plans to counter a move by British Airways to poach their potential passengers by introducing cheap, no-frills flights next spring.

The move by BA is a direct response to the success of easyJet. Debonair and Ryanair, who will be closely watching their giant rival for signs of anti-competitive behaviour.

With profit margins so thin, the only way all will survive is by increasing the existing air travel market while paring administration costs.

The new BA subsidiary airline will copy easyJet's operation in selling direct to the public and cutting out travel agents. easyJet has set the standard for no-frills flying. Staff are not paid wages: instead, they are paid 80p for

every seat booked. The system works both ways for the airline: customers seeking long-sold £29 seats are enthusiastically encouraged to buy higher-priced fares.

The number of travellers at Luton, where both easyJet and Debonair are based, has doubled in the past year. Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the chairman of easyJet, said: "If you reduce prices, people will fly more."

Passenger numbers on the Birmingham-Dublin route have quadrupled to 600,000 since Ryanair began the service in 1994.

The biggest savings are on service, hence the "no-frills" tag. None offer free hot drinks or alcohol, or hot food — and

snacks are only of the muffin or peanut variety.

The airlines use secondary airports, such as Luton, Prestwick and Liverpool, which offer cheaper rates. Admin is kept to a minimum: easyJet has no paper files and accepts only credit/debit card payments — meaning cash in the bank within 24 hours.

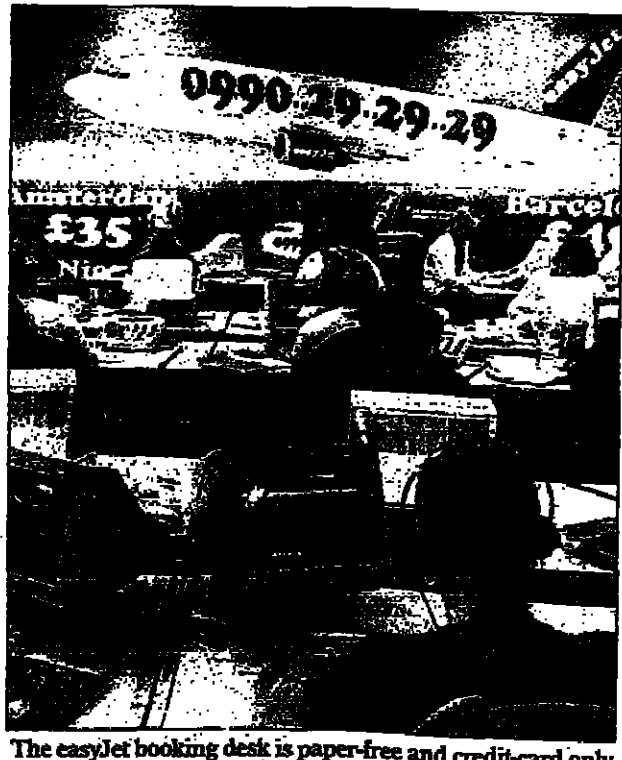
BA PROMISES it will be "squeaky clean" in competing with the low-cost carriers. But there is a fine line between large airlines responding to the market and anti-competitive behaviour, especially when new carriers are still looking to make any profit.

Of 80 airlines that started in

Europe since 1993, all but 20 have failed. There is also a danger that in expanding their networks so fast, the no-frills airlines will come into conflict with each other. On December 12, Debonair is due to start services between Luton and Nice, in direct competition with easyJet. Ryanair, looking to expand at Luton, wants to add to its continental network — currently just two routes to Scandinavia.

The potential for conflict is there, and Debonair is already looking to sign co-operation deals with independent carriers abroad as a form of insurance. Its first, a partnership with Milan-based Azur Air, took off last month.

There may be tears on the Tarmac. After all, budget airlines are hardly in a position to start a price war, particularly with a BA offshoot.



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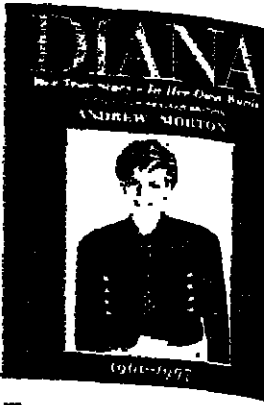
**FRANCE** 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-12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TOP TEN

Morton still outsells the rest

■ *Diana: Her True Story* — In her own words by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). (Continued on p. 36)  
 ■ *Diana: Princess of Wales* — A Tribute by Tim Graham Weidenfeld & Nicolson (£12.99). Photo-story of her life. Sales: £513,173.  
 ■ *Diana: Her True Story* by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). The original exposure. Sales: £152,551.

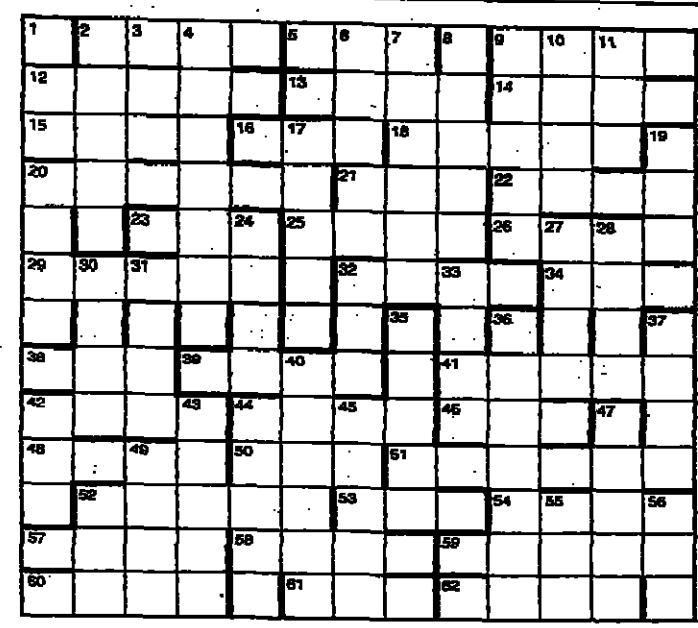


■ *Diana: A Tribute to the Princess of Wales* by Tim Graham Weidenfeld & Nicolson (£12.99). Sales: £513,173.  
 ■ *Diana: Princess of Wales* — A Tribute by Tim Graham Weidenfeld & Nicolson (£12.99). Sales: £513,173.



THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3437: The Message by MynoT



To get this unsigned message across, it has been concealed in the letters (in order but not necessarily consecutively) omitted from answers before entry in the grid. Solvers are asked to enter the (missing) final to the message beneath the grid. All answers and entries are words found in Chambers 1993 except for one well-known place name. The numbers in brackets indicate the length of the grid entries.

ACROSS

- 2 Feather's soft and light, mostly (4)
- 5 Figs for suet pie (3)
- 9 Blockhead for the chop (4)
- 12 Cautious sloop around English bogs (5)
- 13 Spring dead one on church (4)
- 14 One who approves our loud rave is crazy (4)
- 15 Activists care about society (4)
- 16 Taste of fan I devour (except some filling) (5)
- 18 Next best principle's almost symbol of death (5)
- 20 60% going from C to a... (6)
- 21 ... sweet note in pain (3)
- 22 Room for half a dozen? (4)
- 23 Colour, unmistakable but not discontinued (3)
- 25 Mix early English phillies for best velvet? (4)
- 26 Chair brought back for promenades (4)
- 29 Kick VIP? (5)
- 32 Northern feast may be abominable (4)
- 34 During the day, one in red passed through (3)
- 38 Plant house with a following (3)
- 39 Ninepence in bag for this lot of beer? (4)
- 41 Blemish on the Queen needs a repairer (5)
- 42 Reform a mist for malodorous mammals (4)
- 44 Started to ask one (4)
- 46 Spike's in room A509, without cold water (3)
- 48 Draw back with fright from spectre (4)
- 50 Jolly party I have (3)
- 51 Graduate in hat produces pastry mould (6)
- 52 Unrecorded in Henry and Alfred's times (5)
- 53 Make fun of mollusc with new tail (3)
- 54 Dirges take in the difficulties (4)
- 57 Quince consumes best lubricant (4)

- 58 Crafty people find space in tubes (4)
- 59 Bluebottle records "hit and run" (5)
- 60 Gaffer on Scottish shores makes cuts (4)
- 61 Paper boat by the sound of it (3)
- 62 With much deliberation we start to insulate broken light at the end of day (4)

DOWN

- 1 Trouble arising in room in harem (3)
- 2 Fairies almost die (5)
- 3 Shelter a general (3)
- 4 Free one's local credit (7)
- 6 Ambassador heard the last words... (5)
- 7 ... Lily heard a monster (6)
- 8 The sword gets home in skin (5)
- 9 Take chances about instruments (5)
- 10 You've a bit part, Irist (4)
- 11 Notes the heads of my essential synopsis (3)
- 17 Snake-like covering (5)
- 19 Said to have a right to the ballot-box (3)
- 20 Dandies losing money in turkey's (4)
- 24 Return of a delay in the web (4)
- 27 Teacher keeps in everyone (separately) (4)
- 28 A zed-shaped too? (4)
- 30 Waterweed not a force in Zeno's city (4)
- 31 Tidy Newcastle has a sort of square (4)
- 32 Deer found in US and Melksham (3)
- 33 Most operations include part of organ (4)
- 35 African puts embargo on Trade Union (5)
- 36 Vases manitos are breaking (7)
- 37 River leads to Ukrainian & Russian agricultural land? No & yes! (4)
- 40 Stopping tax to monarch (6)
- 42 A wry face, whichever way up (3)
- 43 Old seat to make acceptable to European (5)
- 44 They summon beauties to be heard (5)
- 45 Confused on board? Two words (5)
- 47 Plainly without cash to a marked extent (5)
- 49 One in a hundred thousand is not an expert (4)
- 52 Stop in middle of lots of fish (3)
- 55 Hooper manufactured in Cowley? (3)
- 56 Yes, mutation produces local strain (3)

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3437 in association with Waterstone's

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3437, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, December 4.

**WATERSTONE'S**

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 488596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

**Solution and notes for 3434: The Albigale Murder by Cheiron**

13 unlucky ships or aeroplanes have blundered into THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE (anagram of title) and become lost. (SAIC, JET, TERN, DOW, WING, BRIG, PACKET, MAN, SHIP, HOPPER, ARK, KETCH, PROA)

Solvers were also required to shade the defining land masses (as per Chambers) FLORIDA, THE BAHAMAS and CUBA.

The winner is John Robert-Jones of Liverpool, Merseyside. The runners up are D. Greenwood, of Ealing, London; Harold Margolis, of Hackney, London; Mr and Mrs M. Wrenthall, of Chelmsford, Essex; P.L. MacDougall, of Fulham, London; Hazel Workman, of Birmingham, West Midlands.

BRIDGE by Robert Sheehan

BRIDGE computer programs come in three categories: those that bid and play randomly-dealt hands, those that use prepared hands for teaching purposes, and those that enable you to play bridge against other players on the Internet. All require an IBM-compatible personal computer, the more powerful the better. The minimum requirements are usually 1Mb RAM and Windows 3.1. Before buying, check with the vendor that you have the right kit.

The three leading programs in the playing category are listed below. In each case the bidding is much better than the card play, where there are frequent errors. They are easy to use, play Acol as well as American systems, offer popular conventions and have a range of features.

**Q-plus Bridge:** This German program, second in the 1997 American Computer Bridge Tournament, has the most extensive range of systems, including Acol, Precision, and most of the American ones. The help during the bidding is particularly good. Here is an accurate auction from Q-plus:

Dealer West

♠ K6
♥ A J 4 2
♦ 10 9
♣ A K Q 9 5

Love all

♠ A 2
♥ K Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 4 3
♣ 10 8 3

West 1C 4C 5C Pass  
 East 1H 4S 5S Pass  
 Cue-bid

**Baron:** From the US, the winner of the Computer Bridge Tournament. It is suited to players of all skill levels. It will provide hints on bidding or play — like many human players it is often wrong but never in doubt. A smaller version, Bridge Baron 8: £49.95, Bridge Plus 0118-935 1052. (DOS and Mac versions also available.) Bridge Baron: £20, computer stores (needs a CD-Rom drive).  
**Micro Bridge 8:** A lively product from Japan. Among its many features is one which allows you to play match-pointed pairs using the results of tournaments already played in Japan. The display of the cards on the screen is not as good as the other two programs. The hand below illustrates a couple of interesting technical points missed.

♠ A 9 4 3 2  
 ♥ A J  
 ♦ K 2  
 ♣ A 10 5 2

♠ J 5  
 ♥ 8 5  
 ♦ A Q J 4  
 ♣ Q 8 4 3

Contract 3NT by West  
 Lead: three of hearts

With the computer playing all four hands, the lead went to the king and West ducked. Although unlikely to cost, this is a mistake because South may switch to a spade. West would have to play the ace on this as otherwise the defence could switch back to hearts threatening to set up five winners. Now, when West plays clubs (ace and low to the queen is best), he will go down if one of the defenders started with K Q 10 x of spades. When I read the defenders' spades to produce the critical layout, the program did not find the spade switch: ♠ 54, Bridge Plus (needs a CD-Rom drive).

Next week: the teaching and Internet programs.

WORD ANSWERS

- Answers from page 36
- ANLAGE  
 (b) The rudimentary basis of an organ or organism.  
 FRIKKADEL  
 (a) A South African ball of meat, fried or baked; a rissole.  
 DOSSY  
 (a) Stylish, smart. Cf. the Scottish doss neat, spruce, and dossie a small, neat, well-dressed person.  
 GAZOOL  
 (c) Oz slang for a fool or blunderer.

CHESS

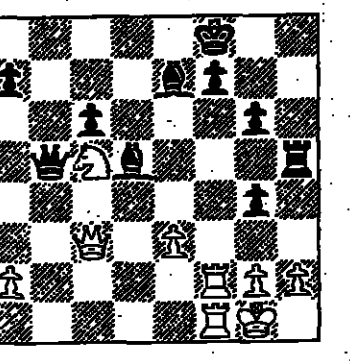
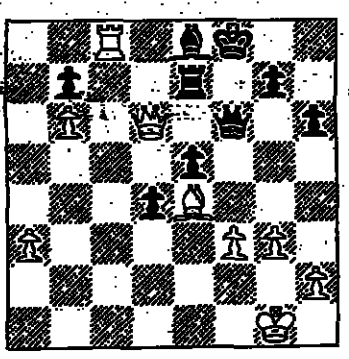
by Raymond Keene

I CONTINUE with some of the more ingenious suggestions submitted by Times readers. Today we have one solution, one originalisation and one horrendous error.

The first position was originally published as a Winning Move on October 10.

White to play. This position is from the game Skotorenko-Admiralov, USSR 1961.

White has an active position but Black appears to have covered the important weak spots, as his rook controls h8 and his bishop controls f7. However, White found a neat geometric combination which won quickly. What did he play?



**Solution:** 1 Rxf7+! Bxf7 2 Ne6+ Ke8 (2... Kg8 3 Qg7 mate) 3 Nc7+ and the black queen is lost.

Dr Harrison of East Sussex indicates an alternative method for White: 1 Rb2! Now if Black captures the knight with ... Rxc2 2 Rb5+ forces 2... Rxc2 3 Qb6 checkmate. The best that Black can do is 1... Rxc2 2 Nd7+ Ke8 3 Qxb2 Kd7 4 Qb7+ but White will win easily. Well spotted.

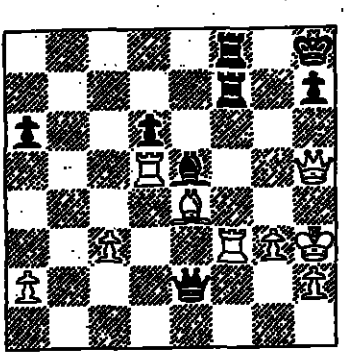
**Solution:** 1 Rxe2! Kxe2 2 Bg6+ Kf8 3 Qd8-mating.

D. Povey of Littlehampton and David Barnett of Surrey point out that Black had an alternative defensive try with 1 Rxe2+ Kxe2 2 Bg6+ and now 2... Rf7. However, they also point out the refutation: 3 Qd8+ Ke7 4 Qxb7+ and White will exchange everything off on f7 and then queen the b-pawn.

The final extract was published as the Winning Move on October 7.

White to play. This position is from the game Bauer-Santo Roman, France 1997.

In this complicated position White spotted a forceful combination which won the game.



**Solution:** 1 Rxe2! Kxe2 2 Qxe5+ Kg8 3 Rf4! and Black has no way to counter 4 Rg4+, except by 3... Rxf4 when 4 Bd5+ which wins outright.

Professor Eilon of London suggests 1 Rxf7 would be a swifter way for White to win. However, after 1 Rxf7, Black responds 1... Qxd5+, capturing the white queen and utterly turning the tables. Backwards moves are often difficult to spot.

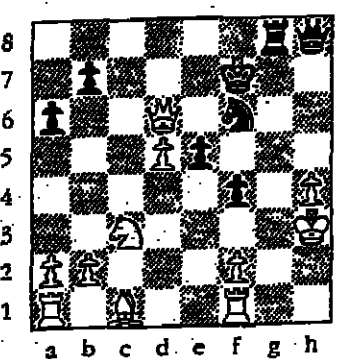
WINNING MOVES

**By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent**

Black to play. This position is from the game O'Kelly-Speelman, Cambridge v Middlesex 1971. Despite his large material deficit of rook and bishop, Black has a fierce attack along the open g- and h-files. How can he now bring this attack to a successful conclusion?

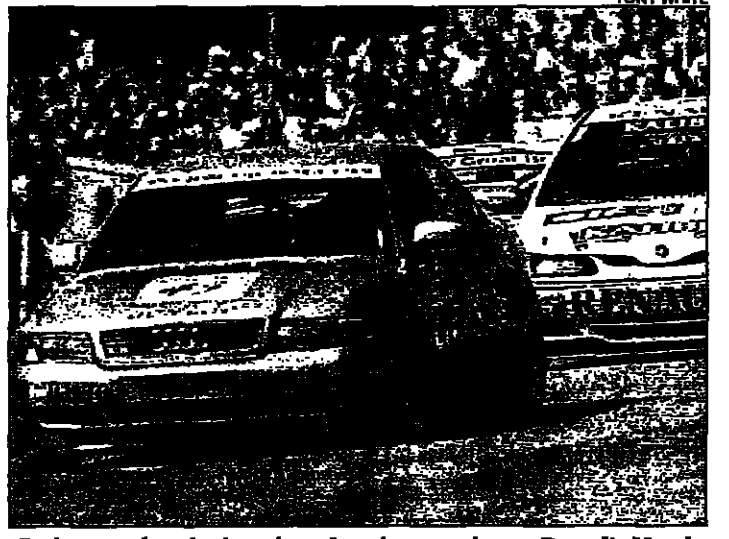
The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

**Solution to last week's competition:** 1 Rf1.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



**Script an ad and win a day's hands-on racing at Brand's Hatch**

Hatch. The trip starts with a classroom briefing, then moves to the racetrack where you drive a BMW 318 and a racing car.

The visit will last around two and a half hours; at the end you will be presented with a commemorative certificate proving you have tested your mettle in metal at the world-famous track. Cyberspace Thirty-Eight offers readers the chance to turn virtual reality into an adrenalin-firing activity. Top prizes in our latest competition are two pairs of silver vouchers for on-track experience at the Brands Hatch race circuit.

Codemasters released its main winter title yesterday, TOCA Touring Car Championship. This is the official game of the 1997 AutoTrader RAC Touring Car Championship and the PC and PlayStation title is authentic down to the cars, teams, drivers and tracks from the real event.

The choice of cars covers a souped-up Peugeot 406 to a Nissan Primera, all put through their paces on accurate virtual models of seven challenging courses, including Donington Park, Snetterton and Brands Hatch. There are plenty of dynamic camera views, such as a "head cam" vista from inside the driver's helmet which judders with the car's G-forces for added realism.

As good as the game is, nothing beats the real thing. So two readers, and a guest each, will scoop the chance to feel such G-forces for real. The silver package promises a day to remember with the Nigel Mansell Racing School at Brands

to Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

You may also e-mail entries, marked Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, to cyber@ditron.co.uk by December 3.

Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence. The two winners, plus six runners-up, will also win PC copies of Codemasters' TOCA Touring Car Championship.

does the same thing for 30 games. In Maxx TT, swap bikes for Isle of Man sheep as follows: at the "select transmission" screen of Saturn mode, press Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Z, Y. Both guides cost £6.99.

**Prima's Big PlayStation Book**, £11.99, claims to have cheat codes for over 100 games but tends to be more of a briefing manual. So does **Nintendo 64 Unauthorised Game Secrets**, £9.99, but this is woefully inadequate. Try using it to plor some games and you are frustrated by vagaries. You can contact Computer Manuals on 0121-706 6000 or via their website (<http://www.compan.co.uk>).

**TWO BRAINS ANSWERS**

From page 36

**Question 1:** 216. The previous numbers are multiplied together and the result divided by 2.

**Question 2:**  
 a) Surgeon  
 b) Astronomer

NEW SOFTWARE

I HAVE a problem with Microsoft's Age of Empires. This is a glossy god game in which you dispatch hunters to kill elephants and lions for food at the start of the game. It seems so barbaric that I tried to build my civilisation by feeding them a diet of fish alone, which could be why the weaklings were later wiped out.

Age of Empires is Microsoft's slant on Sid Meier's classic, Civilization. Charges of blatant unoriginality can be forgiven, however, since this title was developed by Ensemble Studios under the guidance of Bruce Shelley, who co-designed Sid Meier's city Civilisation and Railroad Tycoon.

Starting as one of 12 fledgling tribes (Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians and so on), you pick your own path through 10,000 years of evolution to world domination. You must balance manpower and resources with technology, warmongering and diplomacy.

The game looks sensational and runs like clockwork. It easily becomes all-consuming yet it can be difficult to shake off feelings of already having been there and done that. Still, it is extremely polished as you expect from one of the titles warranting most attention when Microsoft first aired it at Atlanta's trade show this summer.

**Verdict:** 9 out of 10. Classy and engrossing god gaming. £39.99.

HASBRO Interactive's Monopoly Star Wars is a marriage made in the heavens but executed in a muddled hell. Despite input by the original voice for C-3PO in the film trilogy, Anthony Daniels, the title has little to excite Monopoly fans and even less for all but die-hard Star Wars groupies.



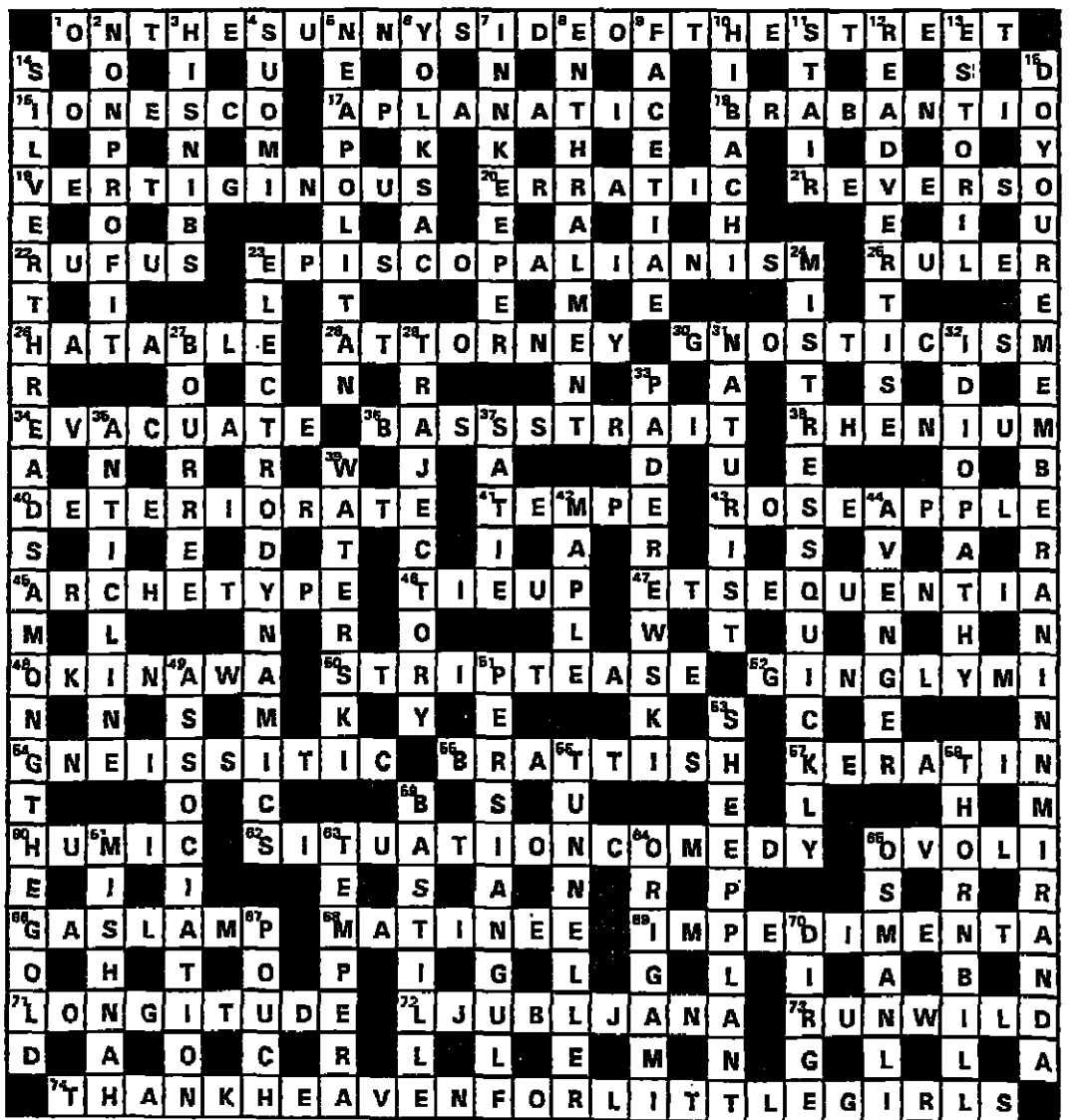
**Engrossing: Age of Empires**

Instead of the dog, boot and warship you opt for eight characters from the film — Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia among them. The only familiar squares from the board are Go, prison, free parking and go to prison. Everything else takes an unthinkably Star Wars slant. Chance and Community Chest become Imperial and Rebel cards. Railway stations become space vessels. Out go the Old Kent Road and Whitechapel for Swamp Dagobah and Yoda's Hut and so on with the colour-coded sets around the board.

The main screen looks ugly and the board squares are difficult to identify individually. In the original you know the significance of being ordered to Advance to Mayfair but Advance to Imperial Palace Coruscant carries only confusion. C-3PO's constant narration of events, which is tasty if you are playing as R2-D2 and timid if you are Darth Vader, barely adds to the experience. This is not a patch on Hasbro's CD-Rom of original Monopoly, released last year.

**Verdict:** 6 out of 10. Monopoly Star Wars — Do Not Pass Go. £39.99.

SOLUTION JUMBO CROSSWORD 135



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Don Cox, of Wirral, Cheshire



## MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

**Q** My brother has just got divorced from his wife who were very fond of and would still like to see. What is the correct etiquette in this situation? — Celia Glynn, Sherborne, Dorset.

**A** No. First tell your brother (preferably in writing) that you would like to continue seeing his former wife. This is a question of courtesy rather than consent, as a divorced spouse has no say in the matter. Next write to her, saying that despite the divorce you wish to remain friends. I suspect she will be delighted with this gesture.

**Q** What is the correct form of address to a married couple where the wife, but not the husband, is an ordained minister? We have been variously addressed as "Rev'd & Mr G", "Mr & Rev'd E", "Mr & Rev'd Mrs G", "Rev'd Mrs E & Mr G" and a variety of other permutations. — George Hubbard, Willingham, Cambridge.

**A** Quite simply: Mr George and The Rev'd Elizabeth Hubbard.

**Q** Early one morning in this summer, I woke to the sound of rain. I suddenly remembered that the down pipe from the roof guttering was disconnected from the rainwater butt, and I rushed outside. I had to stand on tiptoe with arms outstretched to connect the down pipe, and was thus spreadeagled facing the side of the house when I heard milk bottles clinking by the door: the milkman on his delivery round in the half-light of dawn. On hot nights, as this had been, I don't wear any night clothes, and had failed to get dressed in my rush to collect the rainwater. In my nakedness, I failed to greet the milkman with my customary, cheerful "Good morning". Instead, I froze, hoping he wouldn't notice me. I wonder if I have offended him — or if I would have by acting in a more extrovert and up-front manner. — Andrew Brownridge, Ashham, Notts.

**A** Just as the well-trained butler always feigns complete indifference should he catch his master, mistress or others in *flagrante delicto*, on the loo, or stark naked, the form of somebody in your situation is to behave as if fully clothed. You should have merely turned your head to the milkman (perhaps not the rest of your body to spare him a full-frontal assault so early in the morning) and said a bright "Good morning". I suspect he would have regarded such a reaction as less unusual than the response you describe.

**Q** I was always taught that when eating dessert, one should either use a spoon and

fork, or a fork alone. I have noticed of late many people using just a spoon. Is this acceptable these days? — Bruce Morgan, Duffield, Derbyshire.

**A** No.

**Q** At a recent wedding, just before the church service a visit to a pub was proposed by the groom's father. The only person I knew among the guests was the groom's father himself. Was it selfish of me not to offer the first round of drinks? — E.E. Manning, London, W8.

**A** The wedding day belongs to the bride, groom and their parents. Thus it was the groom's father's prerogative to stand the first round of drinks. After all, I suspect his expenses for the day were considerably less than those of his opposite number.

**Q** Having been divorced for 17 years, my former husband died earlier this year. Some friends say I should tick widowed and some single on forms. I've always been addressed as Mrs. Esther McKell, Ayr, Scotland.

**A** The act of divorce dissolves a marriage and therefore any subsequent claims to widowhood are invalid. Thus, both for practical reasons such as pension entitlements and for social correctness, you should always tick "divorced" when filling in forms.

**Q** As a qualified hairdresser and beautician, I often give my friends luxurious treatments at home, the price being a good bottle of wine. This mostly works well except for one or two friends who conveniently "forget" the payment and several weeks can go by before they remember. I find this extremely rude. After all, they could not forget to pay if they went to a clinic or salon. How could I tactfully suggest that this is not acceptable and spoils what is usually a fun night? — Miss S. Myers, Worcester.

**A** Next time one of the miscreants comes around, say innocently: "Could I could ask your opinion about a little dilemma? As you know, the price for friends for one of my treatments is a good bottle of wine. Someone has asked me to do some extensive electrolysis, which I estimate will take 12 sessions. Do you think I could ask her to give me a case of wine? This would mean that she could settle up in advance and not worry about forgetting to pay for individual treatments." Your client should be round to the off-licence before you can say cabernet sauvignon.

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ magazine

DAN BLAIR  
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

## WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## ANLAGE

- a. An overflow canal  
b. A rudiment  
c. To overland a boat

## FRIKKADEL

- a. A rissole  
b. A gypsy fiddle  
c. The African vulture owl

## DOSSY

- a. Smart  
b. Soft  
c. A class of yacht

## GAZOB

- a. A spyhole  
b. A gypsy pancake  
c. A fool

Answers on page 35

## TWO BRAINS

This column welcomes feedback from readers. Abigail Rosenthal (Herts) and Norman Shepherd (Bristol) have written in suggesting that a truly creative mind might find alternative answers to the questions I have set. If you do have a valid alternative any week, please write to me, Raymond Keene, Two Brains, c/o The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The best contributions will be published in this column.

## Question 1:

What is the next number in this sequence?  
3 4 6 12 36

## Question 2:

The two statements below can be read as two professions. What are they?  
a) GO NURSE  
b) MOON STARTER

Answers on page 35

R.K.

## CROSSWORDS

By Mike Laws

The lure of empty Jumbo grids may not be quite universally acknowledged, but I have had an encouraging comment from Moscow, and am apparently an accessory (before the fact) to neglected housework in Ipswich! Such thievery of time also afflicts those that create them, since a goodly selection of entries longer than 15 letters is a prerequisite, and fitting them in means each diagram has to be constructed individually, whereas completing one of the 50 fixed grids for the daily crossword is usually the easy part. Cueing long words and phrases often presents difficulties, and a Jumbo's average solution-length exceeds that of a 15x15, so the whole puzzle can take more than four times as long to complete. The occasional obscure vocabulary becomes inevitable, given these strictures. I promise such solutions will be minimised and clued as unequivocally as possible, although still cryptically.

Christmas 1971 saw the first Times Jumbo, by Edmund Akenhead, then crossword editor. His format remains the standard, so after 125 bank holiday appearances it seemed appropriate to dub the first weekly version, on September 6, as No 126. Practical considerations militate against weekly non-cryptic versions, but these will continue to appear on Saturdays

preceding bank holidays. Style-spotters will have had the chance to identify the work of seven regular Times contributors so far, sometimes in collaboration, and puzzles by other experienced hands are already in the pipeline. Aspiring Jumbos should make contact first before committing themselves to a full grid.

The blame is entirely mine for last week's Jumbo-sized errors and I apologise unreservedly; allowances will be made. Clue 55 down should have read: Rehearsal to grant it takes two hours to get in the joint (8). However, I would still like you to say Sent comments, or I went mad (5,2) to Mike Laws, Weekend Jumbo editor, c/o The Times.

## PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what the Queen Mother, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 27.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Mrs B. Graebe, of Eye, Suffolk.

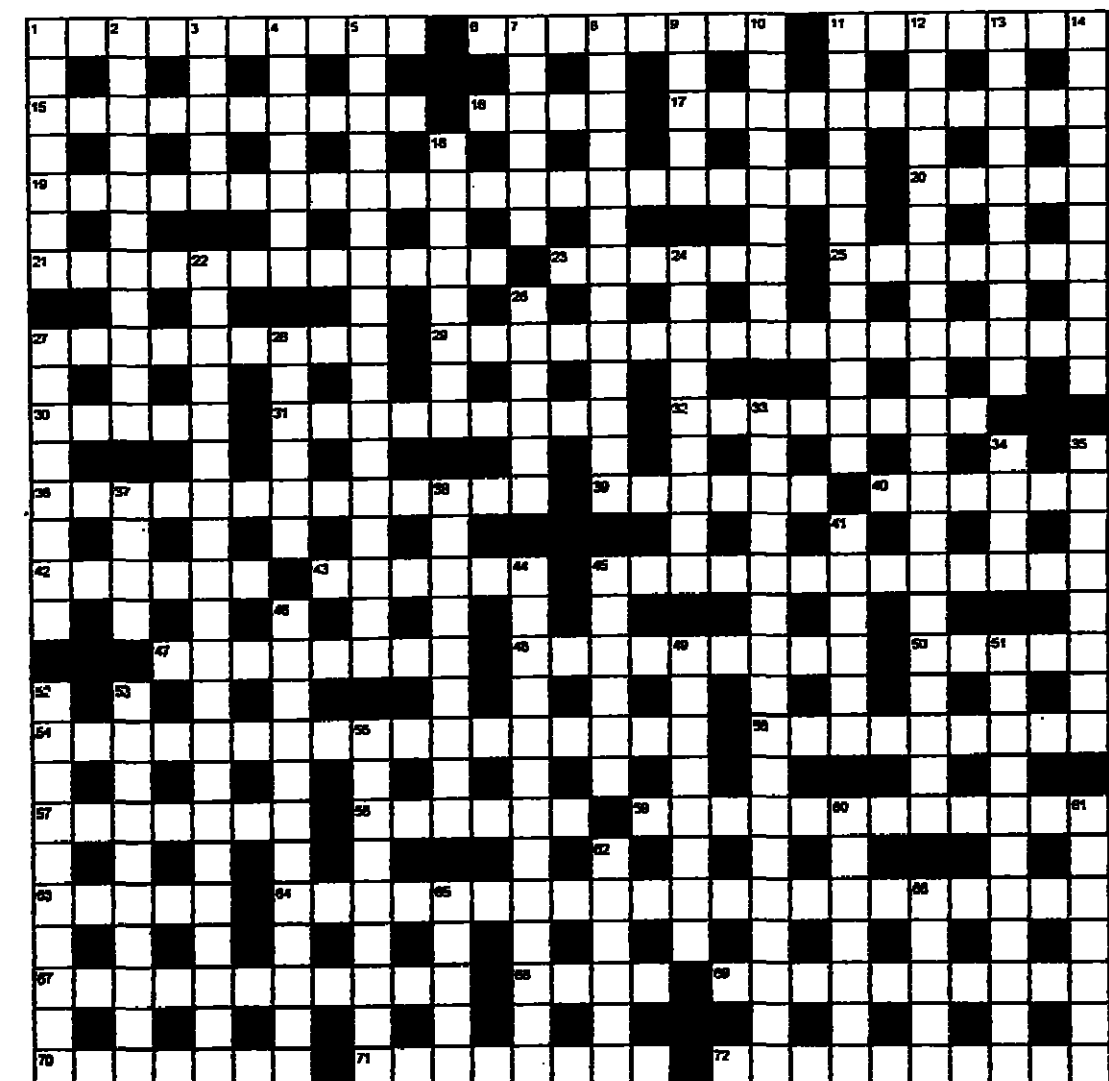


## JUMBO CROSSWORD 137

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 137, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday, December 1. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, December 6.



ALFRED DUNHILL LONDON



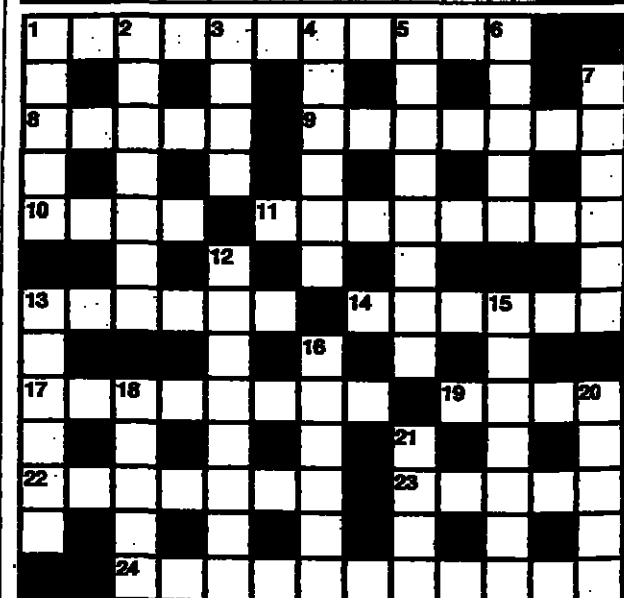
## ACROSS

- 1 Fancy type of clock's mine — just a bit of froth (6-4)
- 6 Is it today? No — it was yesterday (8)
- 11 In the caves, I cleared a small cavity (7)
- 15 Set permeating in motion (10)
- 16 Booted out? (4)
- 17 Where the reception is chilly, and ideas are shelved (4,7)
- 19 Hastily concealed cigarette may be quickly disposed of (4,1,4,2,4,6)
- 20 Having all players involved in show of disapproval, it's backed (5)
- 21 Year's big lead recast, causing a quarrel? (12)
- 23 Stunt area has heroin within (6)
- 25 Graeme's showing great interest in cotton material (7)
- 27 Sculptor has a signed agreement rejected — say nothing (9)
- 29 Loves to fill in parts of this grid, without necessarily finishing! (7,3,7)
- 30 Somewhat wrong-headed, for a delicious treat? (5)
- 31 Complain loudly about schooldays left — it'll be grinding (5-4)
- 32 Minor star appearing in a footnote (8)
- 36 Scenic spot offered, being given the push (1,3)
- 37 Off-piste finally, risks may involve them (6)
- 40 Last busy with a piece of music (6)
- 42 Succeeded with two articles to wrap (6)
- 43 Winnie, returning to US city, opens hair game (4-2)
- 45 One may control inflex, as famous merchant's left in a quandary (8,5)
- 47 Kept daily records, having acted to secure an increase (8)
- 48 Tourist reported profit, following a great deal (9)
- 50 Close with misprint — it's at bottom of column! (5)
- 54 Jane's booking perhaps means holding up the match (5,3,9)
- 56 One in test, possibly under stress (9)
- 57 It may be involving a criminal (7)
- 58 Pan nearly holds it — it's small, like 55 (9)
- 59 Inexperienced at first, feels skill growing (5,7)
- 63 Detailed cunning rodent (5)
- 64 Selected students being aware of previous literary style (6,2,13)
- 67 Extension needed, as the Shadows were performing in the evening (11)
- 68 Old Swiss hotelier starts to revamp inns, targeting Zurich (4)
- 69 Run off with single partner, doing nothing improper (10)
- 70 Start people in office, cutting bad language, at last (5,2)
- 71 One may have heard of the puzzle over the page (8)
- 72 Very vague as a result of afternoon nap, missing a boat coming in? (10)

## DOWN

- 1 Gained promotion, making contact initially with certain branches (7)
- 2 Well-equipped with warnings of road hazards surrounding a capital (11)
- 3 Work on a libretto? (5)
- 4 Ignoring some characters involved, once spy defects (7)
- 5 Out of one's control, as wordings of pets may be (2,3,2,3,4)
- 7 Where sources of special prints are available (2,4)
- 8 Ben's companions are so ancient (3,2,3,5)
- 9 College head almost has the right page (5)
- 10 It's advisable to have knot securing present — that's not in doubt (4-5)
- 11 One's left to establish who the caller was (8-4)
- 12 This automatic ignition occasionally plays up (1,1,10)
- 13 Diagram sure to be messed up over editor's first drink! (10)
- 14 Detective with intelligence on the Bill — who saw it? (10)
- 18 Crack unit — part of a fleet (3-5)
- 22 Take serious risks, and discuss two elements in detail (2,7,4,3,5)
- 24 Islander with singular obsession, into Browning (9)
- 26 Curious, almost antique? (6)
- 27 Do some ironing, perhaps, to reduce the quantity (8)
- 28 Policeman found graduate in possession of grass (6)
- 33 Act with insolence, accepting the alternative is to give in meekly (4,3,5,5)
- 34 Queen's attendant dressed up in Indian costume (4)
- 35 Intense pressure — a way son got in dire straits? (4,4)
- 37 Rock music's last fund-raising activity (4)
- 38 In trouble deep in Texas — departing as is advisable? (9)
- 41 Arrives in London, perhaps — it's a crowded place (6)
- 44 A type of wit heard over dessert? It's hard to get over it (7,6)
- 45 I've abandoned eating some animal produce (6)
- 46 Outspoken scientist one dismissed as a monster (12)
- 49 Representative cross-section of the 30's (4,4)
- 51 Associate with a creed often seen as corrupt (11)
- 52 Will they clear out naval types frequenting the Derby? (5,5)
- 53 Dispute the number left (10)
- 55 One's daughter may be in the process of delivery (5,4)
- 60 A supplier of bedding material (7)
- 61 Dubious religious group split up by American pressure (7)
- 62 Cut down the weed, perhaps getting terribly chesty (6)
- 65 Answer, and say one's offered protection (5)
- 66 Second aspiration — to be smart (5)

## TWO CROSSWORDS



## No 1258

## ACROSS

- 1 Next keyboarded copies (11)
- 8 Sordid (5)
- 9 Lazarus's home town (7)
- 10 And the rest (*Lat. abbr.*) (2,2)
- 11 Rural labourer (8)
- 13 Tree, provides mace (6)
- 14 Fights with lances (6)
- 17 Cambridge mathematician once (8)
- 19 A fish, a singer (4)
- 22 Language-learner's book (7)
- 23 Sowd (bell); be consistent (5)
- 24 March girls book (*Alcott*) (6,5)

## DOWN

- 1 A sense; a small sample (5)
- 2 Behave insincerely (4-3)
- 3 A bean, makes meat substitute (4)
- 4 Thin decorative strip (6)
- 5 An (alcoholic) drink (11,2) (8)
- 6 Informal expressions (5)
- 7 Greek/Turkish island (6)
- 12 A pear; a citrus, gives perfume (8)
- 13 Post-Christian 'religion' (3,3)
- 15 Sports ground (7)
- 16 Sea bird, sounds like fuel (6)
- 18 Be of use (5)
- 20 Surface lustre (5)
- 21 Barge (US) yacht (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1257

ACROSS: 1 Facade 4 Bigwig 9 Chapman 10 Fugue 11 Salvo 13 Aquatic 14 Don 15 Bacon 16 Rue 17 Flatter 19 Abbot 21 Carol 22 Tangent 24 Tweeds 25 Player

DOWN: 1 Focus 2 Chaplin 3 Dam 5 Influenza 6 Wight 7 Glencoe 8 Incarcerate 12 Embattled 14 Deficit 16 Robbery 18 Agree 20 Tutor 23 Nil

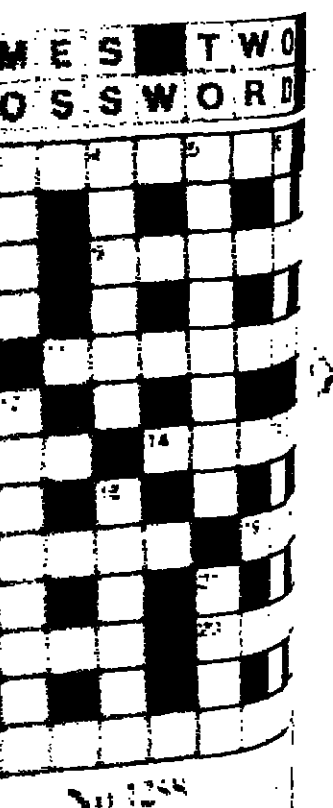
## THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS — SPECIAL OFFER: The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop. Compilation winners of The Times Two Crosswords (Book 6 — £2.99, The Times Crosswords (Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — £3.99 each) and Times Computer Crosswords (Book 1 — £2.99) may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. To order simply call 0900 134 499 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/POA please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.





ER... LOOK... I DO APOLOGISE. I REALLY DO. I HANDLED IT BADLY. BUT TRUST ME...



THE TIMES

## UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

**CAPTAIN'S COURSE**  
Simon Barnes meets the best horseman in the world  
PAGE 43

**DANNY BAKER**  
Spurs to glory? Not likely  
PAGE 37

**DRIVING FORCE**  
Colin McRae puts his foot down in the RAC Rally  
PAGE 41

## WEEKEND MONEY

How much is your house making you this year?  
PAGE 51

They have ways of making your transport green  
PAGE 45

# THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

NOVEMBER 22 1997

## UNITED FRONT NEEDED FOR CATT TO GET THE CREAM



Just for kicks: Mike Catt, the England fly half, gets in some practice at Old Trafford yesterday as the countdown continues towards the confrontation with the All Blacks. Photograph: Marc Aspland

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD has seen its share of sporting life this past month. Quite apart from the comings and goings of Manchester United, the Great Britain rugby league team passed through a fortnight ago and today the England rugby union team follows suit. Sadly it is virtually impossible to conceive that England will beat New Zealand on the ground where, against all predictions, the country's rugby league players beat Australia.

It is said that the All Blacks, overcome by the aura imposed by the so-called Theatre of Dreams, were less than impressive during their closed training this week and received appropriate admonition from John Hart, their coach. If that is true, then England must hope that playing a match there will have the same effect, because a comparison of the qualities of the teams leaves no room for doubt over the result.

That has been Hart's problem this week, particularly after his midweek team scored 59 points against Emerging England on Tuesday. England, his players have been told, represent one of the most demanding opponents of an entire year in which the All Blacks have been unbeaten. Seven of the visitors' starting

## Reality awaits in Theatre of Dreams

XV were at Twickenham four years ago when a well-prepared but limited England side beat them 15-9, and the desire to put the record straight is strong.

Stern reality sets England's present squad several removes from the experienced, skilful, confident unit that they face this afternoon. Even Clive Woodward, the England coach, could not refrain from applauding as he watched the All Blacks go about their business on Tuesday.

Stern reality, too, was John Mitchell's message yesterday. The England assistant coach knows that one game together, against Australia last week, is nothing like enough to even evoke genuine comparison with New Zealand.

"We have to focus on learning, improving, establishing credibility," Mitchell, a New Zealander himself, said. "I believe in the players England have but it will be a huge exercise for them. There are

**THE TIMES TABLE**  
World rankings since the last World Cup.  
Full table and details, page 34.

1	NEW ZEALAND
2	FRANCE
3	ENGLAND
4	SOUTH AFRICA
5	AUSTRALIA
6	WALES
7	ARGENTINA
8	SCOTLAND
9	IRELAND
10	ITALY

TODAY: England v New Zealand 2pm (Television: Sky Sports 2, live; ITV, delayed transmission, 4.15pm).  
Scotland v Australia 3pm (BBC1, live).  
France v South Africa 2.45pm.

wide cracks in our system and it's about time we recognised them."

The cracks include the inability of the Allied Dunbar Premiership to provide the degree of intense competition to a sufficient number of English-qualified players that the Super 12 tournament offers southern hemisphere players. In common with an increasing number of other administrators, he seeks a global competition in which English regional teams can compete.

"The Premiership doesn't look after English rugby at all," Mitchell, who is director of rugby at Sale, said. "There has to be a resolution between the owner-clubs and the Rugby Football Union."

That is for the future. The present offers an occasion that has generated excitement and enthusiasm throughout the North West. A capacity crowd

of 55,000 will hope to see a scrummaging performance much improved on the ragged display against Australia, which inhibited nearly everything else England hoped to do. Set-piece play was one area in which England, down the years, have been consistently competitive, but Mitchell now finds himself having to enforce a different, more attacking, mentality.

Then there is Jonah Lomu. Two years ago, when the giant New Zealand wing was unleashed upon the World Cup, many observers suggested that he was the difference between the All Blacks and the rest. It was a naive view then and remains so, since New Zealand have proved over and over again how effective a force they are without him.

That said, Lomu creates problems. "The management have had faith in me and I have to return that, there's no way I can let them or my teammates down," he said after

learning that a tour designed to reintroduce him gently to top-flight sport after his protracted illness will now restore him to full-blown international rugby. England, rightly, have not designed their defence to cope with one individual, but his ability to suck in defenders will be the ultimate test of their pattern of play.

If England are to compete this afternoon, it will be through an enormous combination of self-will and pride in individual performance. From the speed and guile of Christian Cullen at full back to the rock at loose-head prop that Craig Dowd has become, New Zealand hold the trumps. "They are probably the best side that has ever worn the All-Black jersey," Mitchell said, and it is not being too harsh to suggest that, of England's side, only Martin Johnson and, perhaps, Lawrence Dallaglio, might press for a place among them.

But the opportunity to measure oneself against the best comes all too rarely and, after today, England will know far more of the world that they seek to inhabit. Not only that — within the next fortnight, against South Africa and then New Zealand again, they will have the chance to put that knowledge to some use.

Last hurrah for Parc, page 34  
Perry blossoms, page 35  
Lawrence Dallaglio, page 35

## Chelsea celebrate Zola's big day at Blackburn

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT



Zola: impressive

THERE was no cake and there were no candles, but just a few days after a daughter was born to Ronan Gullit, they were celebrating a different kind of birthday down at Chelsea's training ground yesterday as they prepared for today's match at Blackburn Rovers.

In English league terms, Gianfranco Zola, the diminutive Italian who, with Dennis Bergkamp and Eric Cantona, has been the most successful of the foreign invaders, will be a year old when Chelsea stride out at Ewood

Park to try to press their claims for the championship. Signed from Parma, he made his debut against the Lancashire club 12 months ago.

Zola appeared almost sheepish when he spoke at a press conference yesterday about his first year in English football. "It was impossible for me to imagine that I would have such a fantastic 12 months when I first arrived," he said. "You have to be

positive when you start at a new club, but you cannot expect what I have had. It has been a hard year, but the payment for it has been special. We are in a good position in the league and we have to keep going. The signs are positive, but we cannot get lazy."

Praised by Gullit, who applauded the way Zola has adapted to a new culture and said that there was nothing more he could add to his

formidable game. Zola reciprocated by saying he was happy to play his part in the coach's squad system. "Maybe four or five years ago, it would have been hard for me to accept it," Zola said, "but when I play football I am like a child and somebody said to me recently that I am not a child any more. Now it is not a problem for me to miss the odd game."

El Tel on top Down Under, page 36  
Match-by-match guide, page 38

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# Waugh's six makes a mark

Venkatraghavan turned down two appeals for bat-pad catches against Navjot Sidhu during an over from Muthiah Muralitharan, the spinner. Ranatunga remonstrated with the umpire and also spoke to Steve Bucknor, the West Indian umpire. Venkatraghavan, who had turned down several other appeals, called Ranatunga back before the next over and another heated exchange followed. Sidhu, who had made 110 at the time, was eventually dismissed for 130 after an innings lasting eight hours.

# Hingis defences finally pierced

Normally Hinges can weather such

Her next chance to prove it will come today, when she faces Nathalie Tauziat in an all-French semi-final. Tauziat defeated Iva Majoli, the No 6 seed, 7-6, 7-6 and managed to reduce the 20-year-old French Open champion to tears as a result. "She is 30, I am 20," Majoli said. "Today she played like she was 20 and I was 60."



## Pierce is jubilant after overcoming her nerves to defeat Hingis

# Ireland's double change

# S Africa bidding for repeat

IRELAND: K Nowlan (St Mary's College); D Hiddle (St Mary's College); R Henderson (Waspas); M McCall (London Irish); K Magee (Bristol); E Ebdow (Galwegians); C McGuinness (St Mary's College); N Popplewell (Newcastle); K Wood (Harequins, captain); P Wallace (Saracens); P Johns (Saracens); M O'Kelly (London Irish); D Erolone (Sale); K Dawson (London Irish); E Miller (Leicester); Replacement: J Cunningham (Ballymore); D Humphreys (London Irish); B O'Meara (Cork Constitution); R Corrigan (Greystones); R Neesdale (Newcastle); E Harvey (Shannon).

FRANCE: J-L Serjourny, D Vancotti, S Glas, C Larnaudon, P Saint Andre (captain); T Lacrob, F Gestrich, C Calisto, M Jaki Mieso, F Tournais, C Bruzzati, O Marle, P Benetton, L Cabernere, A Benazzi. Replacements: L Leflamand, D Aucagna, J Cazalhou, F Pelous, D Cassoté, R Isenac.

SOUTH AFRICA: P Montgomery, J Small, A Smyrn, D Mulr, P Rossouw, H Honibell, W Swanepoel, O du Randt, J Dalton, A Ganvey, M Andrews, K Otto, F Erasmus, A Venter, G Trenchman (captain). Replacements: J de Beer, D van Zyl, A Aitken, B Els, N Drotawe, D Theron.

Reliefers: P O'Brien (New Zealand).

## Cannock face a sterner test

When the teams met in a

Havant and Surbiton, the two clubs setting the pace in the first division, are expected to maintain their dominance. Havant are away at Bromley and Surbiton visit Gloucester City.

## Cayard hits trouble as Smith surges on

The striking thing about Smith and his young crew's performance over the past

### THE TIMES WORLD RUGBY UNION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1 New Zealand	24	22	0	2	945	414	91.30
2 France	27	18	0	9	831	550	60.60
3 England	16	10	1	5	415	274	65.80
4 South Africa	26	18	0	10	842	590	61.50
5 Australia	24	13	1	10	848	591	59.24
6 Wales	23	11	0	12	556	598	47.80
7 Argentina	19	8	1	10	503	836	44.74
8 Scotland	13	5	1	7	256	352	42.30
9 Ireland	14	4	0	10	272	435	28.57
10 Italy	18	4	1	11	404	561	28.13

☐ includes all full internationals since World Cup (June 1995)

#### P INTERNATIONAL POINTS-SCORERS (present play)

	Tris	Con	Par	DG	Capa	P50
1 N Jenkins (Wales) .....	8	67	126	3	51	550
2 T Lacroix (France) .....	6	32	69	2	42	367
3 A Mathies (NZ) .....	6	60	52	8	19	319
4 E Wood (Ireland) .....	14	48	2	20	167	200
5 J Evans (Wales) .....	33	—	—	—	17	171
6 P Saint Andre (France) .....	32	—	—	—	68	151
7 S Spencer (NZ) .....	6	31	20	—	7	147
8 C Chalmers (Scot) .....	5	10	24	9	52	140
9 S Grayson (England) .....	7	8	35	4	9	133
10 A Thomas (Wales) .....	7	18	19	—	14	130

\* Inclusion time necessary for 1992

\* Includes those scored before 1992 which were worth four points.

### P TRY-SCORERS

Cape		Trize	1978	Twickenham	N Zealand	16-8	
1	P Saint Andre (France)	68	32	1979	Twickenham	N Zealand	10-9
2	Evans (Wales)	71	33	1983	Twickenham	England	15-13
3	Wilson (NZ)	33	29	1985	Christchurch	N Zealand	18-19
4	Stanger (Scotland)	45	22		Wellington	N Zealand	42-28
5	Thorne (Australia)	46	22	1991	Twickenham	N Zealand	18-12
6	France (NZ)	62	20	1993	Twickenham	England	15-18
7	Cullen (NZ)	19	18	1995	Cape Town	N Zealand	45-29
8	Small (SA)	44	18				
9	Brooks (NZ)	55	17				
10	Van Wyk (South Africa)	38	17				
11	Ninkovic (Croatia)	37	17				

Scotland v Australia			
		S won	A won
	In Scotland	1P	

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

England v New Zealand			
	P	E won	NZ won
In England .....	12	3	9
In N Zealand .....	5	1	4
Neutral .....	1	0	1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>

MATCH-BY-MATCH			
Total	.....	15	7
			8
Year	Venue	Winners	Score
1927	Murrayfield	Scotland	10-8
1947	Murrayfield	Scotland	16-7
1958	Murrayfield	Scotland	16-7
1968	Murrayfield	Scotland	11-5

### WINNER

1935	Crystal Palace	Drawn	3-3	1975	Murrayfield	Scotland	10-3
1925	Twickenham	N Zealand	17-11	1981	Murrayfield	Scotland	24-15
1936	Twickenham	England	13-0	1982	Brisbane	Scotland	12-6
1954	Twickenham	N Zealand	5-0		Sydney	Australia	33-9
1963	Auckland	N Zealand	21-11	1984	Murrayfield	Australia	37-12
1964	Christchurch	N Zealand	9-8	1988	Murrayfield	Australia	32-13
1964	Twickenham	N Zealand	14-0	1982	Sydney	Australia	27-12
1954	Twickenham	N Zealand	23-11		Brisbane	Australia	37-13
1937				1902			

## by Stephen McGarry

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14/1 .....	1-5 pts .....	14/1
28/1 .....	6-10 pts .....	11/1
66/1 .....	11-15 pts .....	7/1
125/1 .....	16-20 pts .....	5/1
200/1 .....	21-25 pts .....	9/2
300/1 .....	26-30 pts .....	5/1
25/1 Drawn Match		

Scotland with a 12 point start  
**5/6 Scotland 16/1 Draw Australia 5/6**  
 Murrayfield, Kick-off 3.00pm. Live on BBC TV.

SCOTLAND	WINNING MARGIN	AUSTRALIA
13/2 .....	1-5 pts .....	13/2
11/1 .....	6-10 pts .....	9/2
25/1 .....	11-15 pts .....	4/1
50/1 .....	16-20 pts .....	9/2
100/1 .....	21-25 pts .....	13/2
175/1 .....	26-30 pts .....	10/1
18/1 Drawn Match		

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# S Africa bidding for repeat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A YEAR ago, South Africa came to the Parc des Princes in Paris on the back of a good win in Bordeaux and sneaked home 13-12 to secure a 20 years wait over France. Today they have a chance to repeat that success in the 60th and 61st annual international test match at the Parc and become the first team to win successive tests in France.

Given that they were beaten by the British Isles and the All Blacks earlier this year, the odds are not in their favour. But in Nick Mallet, the new coach, they have a man who has a remarkable record. Nick Mallet, who has coached the French team since 1994, has a record of 10 wins and 10 losses. He has also coached the British Isles and the All Blacks. He is a former player and a former coach. He is a man who knows the game and he is a man who is determined to win.

South Africa will want to emulate their triumph in the previous test match in the first of a three-test series, which will run from 22-24 November. They were defeated 13-12 in the first test match, but they will not be deterred. They will be determined to win the second test match and to become the first team to win successive tests in France.

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# David Hands on a back finding his feet with England



Perry, who will earn his second cap at full back against New Zealand today, is hoping that his exuberant style of play will be suited to Old Trafford

Maybe it is the gumshield that does it but put a 1960s-style haircut on Matt Perry and he would look like Herman — he of the Hermits, those whose memories of 30-year-old pop groups may be fading at the edges. There is the same fresh, slightly aquiline face that always seemed ready to light up in a smile and Perry adds to the impression with his leggy, coltish appearance.

One of Peter Noone's hits, as lead singer of Herman and the Hermits, would have suited Perry down to the ground: *I'm into something good*. An hour after England's drawn game with Australia a week ago, which even Lawrence Dallaglio had categorised as disappointing, Perry was bubbling over with sheer delight at the moment, at having made his debut for his country and discovering that he had what it takes.

That is how it should be for 20-year-olds with the sporting world at their feet. How often do we find sportsmen full of premature gravitas, analysing every last moment until their eyes appear to be turning square, rather than demonstrating so evident a pleasure at having raised the cup and finding the taste to their liking.

Today Perry wins his second England cap at full back. Last week it was Twickenham, this week it is Old Trafford. Last week it was Australia, 1991 world champions, this week it is New Zealand, best in the world, even if they are not holders of the World Cup. How can

# New post lets Perry enjoy life to the full

so much be absorbed so soon? "It's still taking time for my selection to sink in even now," Perry said as England prepared in the Cheshire countryside this week.

Clearly this is so. In his youth — that is to say, a couple of years or so ago — Perry would cheerfully have completed 72 holes of golf in a day but now a mere 18 leaves him tired, given his exertions in his new profession of rugby player and the mental energy required by every member of a new team bedding down in the highest class of company.

Perry, 6ft 11in and 13st 7lb, regards himself as fortunate in the time rugby union accepted professionalism, he was about to leave school, was making his way with high-profile Bath and was undecided about his career

path. The offer of a one-year contract with the Bath academy of youth helped to decide him, though his association with the club goes back many years.

His father, Brendan, played there and became a club administrator; Matt Perry, the youngest of

three children, joined the mini-section as an eight-year-old before moving with his mother, Bernadette, to live in Wales. The sporting noose fastened when he went as a boarder to Millfield, where so many sports are accessible. He tried them all but rugby and cricket became the staple diet.

He "batted and bowled a bit" in the same XI as Ben Hollis and played fly half for the school, the position in which he won colts caps. At that time Richard Hill, the former England scrum half, was still scouring the land for talent to play in Bath's development XV.

When England last played New Zealand, during the 1995 World Cup, Perry watched with his mates in the senior common room at Millfield. "It was unbelievable, they created so much space in a tournament where there just hadn't been any, defences were so tight," he said. "We have played

TODAY'S TEAMS AT OLD TRAFFORD	
ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAND
M B Perry (Bath)	15 C M Cullen (Manawatu)
D Rees (Sale)	14 J W Wilson (Otago)
W J R Greenwood (Leicester)	13 F E Bunce (North Harbour)
P R de Glanville (Bath)	12 A Ieremia (Wellington)
A A Mabeayo (Bath)	11 J T Lewis (Counties)
M J Catt (Bath)	10 A P Mearns (Canterbury)
J P Brackley (Saracens)	9 J W Marshall (Canterbury)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	8 C W Dowd (Auckland)
S Gifford (Leicester)	7 R J Hewitt (Southland)
D J Gifford (Leicester)	6 M Brown (Auckland)
M D Johnson (Leicester)	5 D Jones (North Harbour)
S S Archer (Newcastle)	4 R W Brooke (Auckland)
L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)	3 T C Randall (Otago)
R A Rie (Saracens)	2 J A Kneafield (Otago)
A J Davies (Saracens)	1 Z V Brooke (Auckland)
Replacements: P Marshall (Auckland)	Replacements: 16 S J McLeod (Wellington), 17 J P Preston (Wellington), 18 A F Blower (Auckland), 19 C C Riechman (Auckland), 20 M R Allen (Manawatu), 21 A D Oliver (Otago)

# Scotland attempt to emerge from mist

THE Lloyds TSB international between Scotland and Australia at Murrayfield should provide both countries with a clearer picture of where they stand now and what they can expect in the future. Australia are ending what for them has been an unsatisfactory season, while Scotland are starting on a new venture with a mixture of optimism and trepidation.

Since the sides met at Murrayfield last year — when Australia won 29-10 — Scotland have underperformed in the five nations' championship before partially redeeming themselves on their development tour of South Africa. With five players also contributing to the success of the British Isles, Scotland appeared to be emerging from the mists with a better idea of their best side and, more importantly, with some strength in depth.

However, a combination of injuries and selectorial whim means the Scotland side that plays today shows 11 changes, two of them positional, from that which lost to Australia for the sixth consecutive time last November. There is a new captain in Andy Nicol, and four

new caps, Grant McKelvey, at hooker, Scott Murray, at lock, Adam Roxburgh, at blind-side flanker and James Craig, on the right wing.

Duncan Hodge has also been drafted in this week to replace the injured Rowen Shepherd at full back. It will be Hodge's first full cap and he will also be the goal kicker. It is a gamble given that Hodge normally plays at either fly half or centre. But the selectors have placed considerable faith in the three-quarter line, which shows attacking potential, and wanted to keep disruption to a minimum.

With Jim Telfer and Ian McGeechan now heavily involved in team preparation it will be interesting to see whether the dynamic game plan that served the Lions so well will be the blueprint Scotland adopt.

They would hope so, but the loss through injury of the forwards, Tom Smith, Doddie Weir and Rob Wainwright, is a significant setback to those ambitions, and the Scottish pack is inexperienced and looks lightweight. Winning enough

ball against the Australians, who did so much damage to England last week, will be their difficulty.

Nicol, who leads Scotland for the first time in a full international, agreed that winning and, more importantly, keeping possession would be the key. "Australia have top-class backs but if they do not have the ball they cannot use it," he said yesterday. "There is a great spirit in our squad: fresh ideas, enthusiasm and exuberance can overcome any rawness."

Whether that will be enough to lift the Scots, who are notoriously slow out of the blocks in the autumn, remains to be seen.

With Townsend at fly half anything is possible, but after Australia's lacklustre draw against England, in which they at least scored two tries, Rod Macqueen will hope that his influence is beginning to bear fruit after Greg Smith's unhappy tenure. Had John Eales converted any one of four missed kicks then Australia would have won at Twickenham.

Scotland last beat Australia in Brisbane in 1982, the only occasion

well against these sides but have not been able to finish the job. Today would be a good time to start, especially with South Africa to play in a fortnight.

□ Shade Munro, the lock forward who won seven caps for Scotland, yesterday announced his retirement because of a knee injury.

has to be a meeting place between expectation and reality. This England team has only just been brought together, one third of it was entirely new against Australia and we were up against well-drilled, high-class opponents.

That's a situation where we need the crowd behind us from the word go and I'm sure that Old Trafford will be buzzing from 11am onwards. There's bound to be a huge amount of northern passion: I've watched football at Old Trafford and I can safely say the atmosphere will be different to that of a normal rugby crowd.

My previous visit is a reminder that even the best of teams can come unstuck. It was a couple of years ago and I was following Chelsea against Manchester United. Chelsea, who are a bit of a bogey side for United, won. This England team know that we have to improve as a side, but if our supporters see the players busting a gut to do just that, they cannot go home unhappy.

# Our self-belief and desire mean prospects are not all black

If we are going to take on New Zealand and win, then continuity is the key. England have to apply pressure and we have to keep the ball, not just through one or two phases of play, but through three, four or five if we are to give ourselves a realistic chance of scoring.

That was the most disappointing aspect of the game with Australia at Twickenham last Saturday, and the Australians felt it as much as we did. We failed to put them under the sort of pressure that we have created in other matches and they failed to test us in the way that we needed to be tested.

## LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



Australia did score two tries, but both from broken play and both from ball that was initially England's. There was no build-up of pressure, such as the British Lions achieved in South Africa and which the All Blacks themselves do so well — as we saw against Ireland last Saturday and against Emerging England at Huddersfield on Tuesday.

Ireland came out with an aggressive attitude that was very effective for 40 or 50 minutes, but then New Zealand upped the tempo. You have to sustain a level of performance for 80 minutes, possibly even 85. It doesn't take a degree in rocket science to know that a level of intensity has to be achieved that will last the entire match and that is the question that English rugby as a whole has to ask itself: does our competitive structure develop the players who can do that?

possession individuals who are among the best in their respective positions in the world. I'm delighted that we have two games against them. One of the frustrations of the game with Australia is that, having discovered more about them, we do not have the chance to put into practice what we have learnt, though I accept the danger of oversaturation of internationals.

It may be that most people will write us off but, for the team, it is not an issue. It is what we believe ourselves that matters. In that respect, I was disappointed by the crowd at Twickenham last Saturday: you need your own crowd to get behind you before the game starts, not merely when the odd passage of play in the opposing 22 takes their fancy.

We need to create as many edges as possible over the opposition and one of those is having a very atmospheric stadium in which to invite other countries to play. I agree that the style and standard of rugby helps to generate a buzz among supporters, but there

'Atmosphere will be very different from a normal rugby crowd'

TODAY'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD	
SCOTLAND	AUSTRALIA
D W Hodge (Watsonians)	15 S Larkham (ACT)
J M Craig (West of Scotland)	14 B N Tume (Queensland)
A G Stanger (Hawick)	13 T J Horan (Queensland)
A V Tait (Newcastle)	12 P W Howard (ACT)
K M Logan (Wasps)	11 J W Roff (ACT)
G P J Townsend (Northampton)	10 E Flatley (Queensland)
A D Nicol (Bath) Captain	9 G M Egan (ACT)
D I W Hilton (Bath)	8 R L L Murray (NSW)
G McKelvey (Watsonians)	7 M A Foley (Queensland)
M J Stewart (Northampton)	6 A T Bledsoe (NSW)
J J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)	5 J A Eales (Queensland) Captain
S Murray (Bedford)	4 J Langford (NSW)
A Roxburgh (Kelso)	3 O Finegan (ACT)
I R Smith (Musselburgh)	2 B J Robinson (ACT)
E W Peters (Bath)	1 V Otabengha (NSW)
Replacements: W T S Hamilton (South Africa)	Replacements: 16 M Hardy (ACT), 17 S J Payne (NSW), 18 D J Wilson (Queensland), 19 M Coddin (ACT), 20 A Heath (NSW), 21 M Caputo (ACT)



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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

# Swiss role puts Spurs in a jam

Had Tottenham Hotspur announced this week that George Graham or Glenn Hoddle or Barbara Windsor was coming to take over at White Hart Lane, they might have been saved. As it is, they are as doomed as the Spice Girls, and with much the same leadership problems. The tetchy, dreary and dry appointment of "Hans" Christian Gross this week is the latest tiny shift from a club that specialises in begrudging little changes, unaware that we live in the age of Big Gestures and that Tottenham and their bored supporters might only come back to life with a bomb under them.

Spurs used to be such a jazzy side too. But there they go, blindly leaping aboard the borrowed ideology that a sober and serious continental "technician" will come in and make them look intense and interesting. How they found someone less charismatic than Gerry Francis beggars belief, but this new po-faced is shaping up to steal even Arsene Wenger's kiljoy crown, and believe me, whatever small on-field benefits Wenger has so far brought, Highbury are a high price to pay for the man being such an out-and-out drag.

Tottenham are lost. They have been lost for ages and will remain lost. They are confusing monolithic insecurity and bullshit inscrutability with Manchester United's

## Gazza ruins punchline

AFTER sharing a soothing cold drink with Paul Gascoigne last Sunday, I gave him off to the airport sobbing into a handkerchief and imploring him not to be a stranger. "Make some time for yourself, Paul," I say. "Go nuts and get sent off," I say. "Get yourself a nice relaxing ban," I say. That's the trouble with footballers. No sense of humour.

grandeur or Liverpool's warmth. Tottenham supporters — famous for their boot-licking timidity — will surely not take one more example of their board's bloody-mindedness. All clubs think deep down that their supporters are nosy outsiders who, unfortunately, are "the marker", but Spurs have begun to make Buck House look like Liberty Hall. Talk about Mother Knows Best.

First, Gerry Francis. When did it finally sink in at boardroom level that it wasn't happening for him? I know he will whip out the statistics book to prove otherwise, but football clubs do not live in statistics books. They are experienced in the hearts, eyes and wallets of their supporters. Altogether now: the difference between staff and supporters at a club is that supporters pay to get in and staff are paid to come in. Put a real slant on a match, that! So when supporters say bugger off to a manager — or player, come to that — it isn't meant as a subtle flagging to the director's box of some possible future discontent. It means bugger off. Now. Respect it.

There's no more empty phrase in football than when a beleaguered boss, after being booed by the crowd, puffs himself up and says: "They are entitled to their opinion but I'm not a quitter." As though there's some deeper appreciation of football that supporters aren't quite up to speed with. "Not a quitter? Be a quitter! Quit! You've had a go, it fell flat, walk away. Stoic transience is not necessarily noble. Sometimes you're simply being a berk.

This stubborn loftiness of the modern big-time British manager is all Alex Ferguson's fault. For, as you are never allowed to forget, Fergie, eventually "got it right. Now every two-bob, thick-ear, ex-pro in a hot seat is given licence to drive a club into the sea because, after all, didn't it take Fergie a long time to "get it right"? Well, you know what? I don't think Fergie did "get it right."



November 15, 1994. The warning signs are already in evidence for the new Tottenham manager

## DANNY BAKER



I reckon he has very little idea of what he was doing so different pre and post that dramatic 6-2 victory at Arsenal in 1990 that got the present juggernaut rolling. Suddenly his patchy side got a little air under its wings and if it made him look like a master genius who had it all mapped out. He's undoubtedly

by a great manager but only he knows the amount of smoke, mirrors, PR and sleight of hand that brings you to such a place.

And now we have the dour Christian Gross, late of Grasshopper, and unless I'm thinking about someone else entirely, former manager of the excellent Alpine Horn Swiss restaurant in London's noisy Wardour Street. His first directive towards the White Hart Lane faithful is that discipline, punctuality and grooming will count for everything at his version of Spurs. They may be on their way down but they will go down in an orderly fashion, on time and wearing sober blazers with slacks.

So here goes. I hereby predict that this man's reign at Tottenham will be one of the most disruptive, disastrous and embarrassing periods in its history. Alan Sugar will blame disruptive outside elements and point out that Herr Gross was a great manager who should have been given time like Alex Ferguson... although, yes, on reflection, the insistence upon walking canes and monocles was a publicity fiasco. As per usual, the supporters will have seen this coming and, wouldn't it be nice if, just this once, somebody emerged from the ivory tower and said to them: "You know, you told us we were going wrong a year ago

# Bow tie collars rattle market

AFTER my story two weeks ago of The Hopeless Penitent of Millwall I have received a lot of correspondence regarding similarly poor merchandise from all sorts of different clubs. However, appalling though the standard of many official products may be, the ultimate tale of football memorabilia concerns The Home Made Wooden Bow Tie of Dundee United.

A caller to the radio show told me that when he was a young lad many years ago he was just about the most fanatical supporter Dundee United had. One year, when his birthday rolled around, his father asked him if he wanted a scarf or bobble hat that might identify him as a loyal fan wherever he went. Two pop's surprise, the boy asked for a football bow tie. Now, whereas many a father might have explained that there is no such thing as a football bow tie, this one simply rolled up his sleeves, spit on his hands and disappeared into the workshop. He emerged on birthday morning with A Football Bow Tie. It was made out of plywood, roughly two feet from side to side, painted in the club colours — orange and black — with the word United spanning its length in white.

It turned out that the piece could be worn in the traditional bow tie manner by the simple fastening of a dog collar which had been nailed on to the reverse side — the collar not needed elsewhere since the family pet had been run over some months previously. This he did at the very next home game collecting, as he put it, "quite a few complimentary notices." However, this notoriety came at a price. For quite early on it became apparent that the knot part of the bow tie was deceptively bulbous and refused to allow his chin to settle on it with any comfort.

After much thought and considering the thing from all angles, his father headed once more for the workshop, emerging with the bow tie intact but now, instead of the dog collar arrangement, it was nailed to the end of a long broom handle. Still clearly a bow tie, but no longer a practical one. The caller purred with pride as he recalled how the very next week he entered the ground holding aloft the two-foot plywood bow tie like a Roman Centurion at the head of his legion — passing those who boasted mere rosettes and rattles, with a superior stride. Sadly, the story ends on a downbeat note because when I inquired where the Home Made Wooden Bow Tie of Dundee United is today, he replied with the phrase that represents the constant sorrow of grown men everywhere: "I think my mother threw it out..."

# Pleat's credit notes lose their currency

STOP PRESS! As I write this, the rumour of David Pleat's wooing to Tottenham looks like it might become fact. It's actually touching the way football fans are suckers for believing that when old favourites return, so will old triumphs, but as anyone who went to see the Steely Dan reunion tour last year will know, even the mightiest turns should never go home. Besides, shouldn't managers fresh from disastrous spells at big clubs have to sit some kind of exam or at least spend some time in a cell as penance for messing everyone about? Pleat may be a superb chap and a party animal but is anyone seriously denying that his track record is smelling a bit gamey? He certainly has his powerful friends. I couldn't believe it when it was suggested both in print and on television that Sheffield Wednesday's 5-0 win the week after Pleat's fingernails were finally prised from the door frame was proof that he was on the verge of getting it right. Duh? They're bottom, he leaves, they win 5-0. He gets credit. Using that logic, Pete Best was responsible for Sergeant Pepper.

□ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.

# Swansea's plight typifies the struggle for survival

By Russell Kempson

AS THE FA Carling Premiership rolls relentlessly on, counting its cash in millions, many in the Nationwide League are struggling to make ends meet. The difficulties of Swansea City, Oxford United and Scarborough are genuine, not imagined.

Of the three, Swansea appear in the most imminent danger. Their third division fixture against Chester City at the Vetch Field this afternoon was called off yesterday because safety work had not been carried out. They were given a deadline of noon today by the city's safety of sports grounds committee, but realised they would not meet it.

Swansea have to carry out repairs to a back-up electricity generator, update the internal radio network at the ground and remove loose masonry from under the North Bank. "This work must be done for supporters to be admitted to the ground," John Spence, chairman of the safety council, said. The League is to conduct an inquiry.

Oxford's predicament involves finance or, rather, the lack of it. Denis Smith, the manager, has been told to prune his first division squad from 25 to possibly 21 — all the players were put up for sale earlier this week — and the



club is only keeping afloat because its main creditors are behaving "co-operatively". Several backroom staff are expected to lose their jobs.

At Scarborough, John Russell, the chairman, has threatened to resign if the attendance for the game against Rotherham United today does not exceed 4,000. "I'm asking the people of Scarborough to please come and support us," Russell said.

"We've been through a lot in the last few years and we've got to see some encouragement from our supporters. If we don't, this will be a Judgment Day."

Scarborough are eighth in the third division but attracted only 1,406 spectators to watch their 3-2 victory over Swansea in midweek. "Rotherham is a derby match and we want to see 4,000 fans," Russell said. "If we don't get that response, then I can't carry on."

Elsewhere, business was less grim yesterday. Swindon Town completed the signing of George Ndah, 22, the gangly Crystal Palace striker, for £500,000. He will make his debut against Middlesbrough this afternoon, replacing Chris Hay. Swindon's 13-goal leading scorer, who is suspended.

Bruce Rioch, the former assistant manager of Queens Park Rangers, has turned down an approach from Northern Ireland to succeed Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed last month.

Meanwhile, Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland and West Ham United striker, is considering a move to Portsmouth, the struggling first division club. Portsmouth have made an offer of £250,000. "Pompey are a great club with lots of tradition," Dowie said. "I need first-team football so a move would be attractive."



Dowie: Portsmouth target

# Nicholson cleared in drug case

SHANE NICHOLSON, the West Bromwich Albion defender, was yesterday cleared of deliberately taking an amphetamine when he called a witness, who admitted slipping the drug into the player's drink for a prank (John Goodbody writes).

However, the Football Association warned Nicholson of "the stupidity of spending time in bars frequented by drug users". The witness, who was not named, now faces possible criminal charges for possessing the illegal substance.

A three-man FA disciplinary commission found Nicholson, a full back at the Nationwide League first division club, guilty of a technical breach of the FA's drugs code, but not guilty of wilful misconduct. Nicholson provided the urine sample at the West Bromwich training ground on October 13.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "The witness told the commission that he was shocked when he heard that Nicholson had subsequently failed a drugs test, so he contacted the player and agreed to admit to his actions before the commission. The witness made the admission despite being warned that his actions could constitute a criminal offence and it was the FA's policy to report such matters."

# Miller takes over at Aberdeen

By Kevin McCarrar

VICTORIES have been scarce for Aberdeen, but they did at least win one significant battle yesterday. Alex Miller was appointed as manager at Pittodrie after the club had overcome resistance from Coventry City, where he was assistant to Gordon Strachan. Miller had no contract with the English club and could not be prevented from returning to Scotland.

Bryan Richardson, the chairman of Coventry, had thought that Miller could be persuaded to accept an offer to remain at Highfield Road. "He spoke at great length and from the heart, but the lure of the Aberdeen job was too great," Miller said.

Miller was manager of Hibernian until September 1996, having spent ten years in the post, but then resigned. His decision to leave Easter Road was influenced, in part, by the antipathy of supporters who may simply have tired of him. In coaching circles, however, he has never gone out of fashion.

He will continue to hold the position of assistant manager of Scotland and his tactical acumen is viewed as a significant element in the achievements of the national team. At Pittodrie, of course, the refinements of strategy may not be regarded as a priority at present and the attainment of ordinary, competent form will be the first objective. Aberdeen are bottom of the Bell's Scottish League premier division

and play Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park this afternoon.

There may be a few advantages in the dismal circumstances, since they relieve Miller of some of the traditional burdens placed upon an Aberdeen manager by the supporters of the club who, understandably, are apt to refer to the high achievements of the 1980s.

For the time being, at least, Miller will be applauded if he only leads the club as far as the security of a mid-table position, and reservations about the manager's past will also be suppressed. Miller, at Hibernian, was often accused of mistaking sterility for prudence and creating a team whose inhibitions thwarted its potential.

Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper who was signed by him for Hibernian and now plays for Aberdeen, disagrees with that viewpoint and points out that Miller tended to buy attacking players. Admirers of the manager will also claim that limited funds at Easter Road meant that the newcomers were not good enough to alter the character of the team.

Funds tend to be available at Aberdeen and Roy Aitken, Miller's predecessor who was sacked two weeks ago, spent £2 million in the close season alone. "This is the biggest club I have ever managed, make no mistake about that," said

without Brian Laudrup, Rino Gattuso, Gordon Durie and Paul Gascoigne, who begins a five-match suspension, when they play Motherwell at Fir Park. Marc Rieper, Alan Stubbs and Craig Burley will be missing from the Celtic side that plays Dundee United.

Heart of Midlothian, the leaders in the premier division, meet Kilmarnock at Tynecastle tomorrow.

# Coz deal breaks new ground at Kennel-worth Road

IT'S a dog's life at Luton Town — usual story: losing team, crowd unrest, etc. — but Coz Kohler is happier than most. Coz is the alsatian-border collie cross owned by David Kohler, the Luton chairman, and has recently secured himself personal sponsorship. The deal was done by Alan Corkhill, the managing director of a local printing firm, and includes Coz's photograph, proudly wearing a Luton shirt in the matchday programme.

Corkhill used to support Kim Grant, the former Luton striker, who is now with Millwall. "Unfortunately, Kim wasn't one of the most popular players," he said. "So this time, I thought I'd go for the most likeable living creature at the club, which apparently is Coz." Corkhill reckons that his canine friend could help out Luton's ailing defence — "he'd bring an extra pair of legs" — or add bite to the midfield.

## Jamaica in-crowd

Many a player from the FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League is casting an envious glance in the direction of Jamaica, who have reached the World Cup finals for the first time. Messrs Hall, Simpson, Burton and Earle are now bound for France, having rediscovered their Jamaican roots, and perhaps Linvoy Primus, the Reading central defender, will be joining them. Primus is qualified on two counts: his mother was born on the Caribbean island and he once ate curried goat, rice and peas as a pre-match meal. "I tried for a while but I'm back on the pasta now," he said.



long after the matches finish, and so has to be edited as the games are going on. Midlands clubs are asked to provide teamsheets, so that the editors can identify the players by their numbers, and most comply with haste. Not so Birmingham City when Norwich City visited St Andrew's. Central eventually received a teamsheet by fax — at 11.15am on Monday, accompanied by the note: "Sorry, bit late."

## There, there Stan

Lord Taylor of Warwick, who last year became the first black Tory peer, apparently likens his newly-arrived son, Mark, to Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa striker. "He looks a bit like Stan," Lord Taylor, a Villa fanatic, said. Perhaps Stan resembles Mark, too — he sleeps a lot, whinges and needs constant attention. One day, just maybe, he will also grow up.

## Extra special

Station Sports, a Sunday league side from Southampton, were locked at 2-2 against Connaught Arms in their Hampshire Junior A Cup second-round tie. Little could separate the sides until extra time, when Sports amassed ten goals without reply. "We scored twice in the first minute and didn't look back," Phil Jones, the

Sports manager, said "Everything seemed to go in, it was amazing."

## Pet hates

It's a dog's life at Barnsley, too — at least for Eric Tinkler, the South African. "It's not the football that is getting to me," he said. "It's the fact that, due to the archaic quarantine laws in this country, I have to travel miles to visit my pet dog. This is going to go on for another five months. It's crazy." Tinkler added for good measure: "Don't get me wrong, Barnsley seems like a nice place and the people are great, too. It's just that the town seems so dead."

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Two Irish fans in Brussels last weekend, for Ireland's World Cup play-off against Belgium, were thrown out of the James Joyce bar — for singing.

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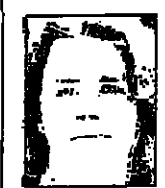
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# FOOTBALL SATURDAY



**BLACKBURN ROVERS**  
v  
**CHELSEA**  
Today, 3.0



**David Maddock**  
When Chelsea signed Frank Leboeuf, Ruud Gullit was alerted to his transfer market success with a one-sentence phone call. "We've got the best," he was told. Have they, really? Gullit has crafted an exciting and certainly fashionable team, but still seems to have incorporated that old Chelsea failing, a vulnerability away from home, especially on trips up north. One remembers their recent visit to Bolton Wanderers, when they dominated ... but lost.

Blackburn will not be an inviting place, either. Apart from the weather, Roy Hodgson has fashioned a team both creative and destructive and he still harbours vague thoughts of the championship. To win it, the Lancashire side must beat imposters such as their southern visitors.

The home cause is not helped by continuing injury to Hendry, who was forced to miss the Scotland game in France because of a knee ligament problem. Hodgson had hoped that it would have cleared by now, but it seems the defender will not train for at least another two weeks. In the meantime, the

manager will busy himself in an attempt to persuade Chris Sutton to sign a new, improved five-year contract worth in excess of £2.5 million.

Gullit has no such problems and even has important players returning from injury, with Duberry, Le Saux and Paul Hughes all training with the first-team squad this week. "I'm knackered, it was an incredibly hard first training session after my injury," Le Saux said with commendable honesty. He will not be ready in time for a return to his former club, but has the brace on his broken arm removed next week and should then be cleared to play.

The Dutchman is a canny manager. As previously one of the boys, he could hardly have waded into the dressing-room with a big stick. Instead, he has cleverly rotated his squad to introduce the fear factor that every manager ultimately requires. It has worked well, but the lack of continuity has not helped on those visits up country.

For this one, Gullit will put his faith in an Italian forward line to avoid the embarrassment suffered at Bolton. "That was not good enough. If we are to challenge for trophies this season, we cannot afford to be so generous to the opposition by refusing to take so many chances," he said.

**BLACKBURN ROVERS** (probable 4-4-2): T. Flowers — J. Jones, S. Hendrie, T. Pedersen, G. Cofre — S. Rieley, T. Shannell, W. Mouniey, G. Rieley — C. Sutton, F. Leboeuf, R. Gullit.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Chelsea to impress, but lose, a la swinging Stives



Mr Ronderful: The new Wednesday manager realises he may have made another verbal slip

Photograph: John Giles/PA

## 11 ELEVEN

### THE BIG IDEA

For the benefit of any Sheffield Wednesday players who have struggled this week with the new boss's unique use of the English language, we have compiled this handy guide to some phrases that may crop up in team talks.

1. Early doors. Anytime between the kick off and the fifteenth minute.
2. For fun. Making your task look easy.
3. Big ugly whip. A cross curving "wickedly" away from the goalkeeper.
4. In the mixer. A threatening area in which to put your pass/cross/intended shot.
5. Pull the trigger. The right time to shoot.
6. The back stick. The far post.
7. Nice bright foot. To dribble with dazzling effect.
8. Super little ball. A rather good pass.
9. Hell of a knock. See above, but over a longer distance.
10. The big fella. Any tall player in the opposing team.
11. Stick or bust. Sorry, we don't know what he's talking about here, either.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead



**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**  
v  
**ARSENAL**  
Today, 3.0



**Oliver Holt**  
From Kettering to West Bromwich Albion, from Manchester to Aston Villa and Coventry City and now back for a second spell at Hillsborough, Ron Atkinson has done the rounds. Today, he starts on the latest stage of his colourful career, trying to lift Sheffield Wednesday out of the relegation zone with victory over Arsenal, second in the FA Carling Premiership.

He inherits a host of problems. His new team is painfully short of confidence, he has two lavishly talented but ill-disciplined Italians in Benito Carbone and Paolo Di Canio, a Frenchman, Patrick Blondeau, who is having problems settling in Yorkshire and, perhaps most significantly, only a short time in which to turn it all around.

Atkinson, so adept at fashioning fine attacking sides, has a wholly different task here. The attack is already in place — it is a midfield and defence that conceded seven goals to Blackburn Rovers and six to Manchester United that has to be shored up and Atkinson will have to move quickly to do it.

The new manager is fortunate that he will be facing an Arsenal side considerably below full strength, even if it has been buoyed by its victory over United at Highbury a fortnight ago. Bergkamp, Petit and Bould, the spine of the Arsenal team, will be missing through suspension as the north London side's disciplinary failings start to bite, while Vieira is still ruled out with a knee injury. After his own concerns that he has over-committed himself to charity work and commercial activity, the pressure will be firmly on Wright to start scoring again after what, for him, is a goal drought, lasting all of four games.

The key may be how Arsenal cope with a Wednesday attack revitalised by Atkinson's instructions. Their glut of suspensions and injuries coupled with Wednesday's determination to impress their new manager could cause an upset at Hillsborough and get Big Ron off to a flier.

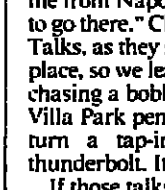
**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY** (4-4-2): K. Prosser — P. Bundred, J. Newby, D. Hogg, T. Wright — M. Perinetti, R. Davis, J. Hogg, P. D. Carr — A. Burt, S. Carr.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Wednesday revival to begin with a win



**ASTON VILLA**  
v  
**EVERTON**  
Today, 3.0

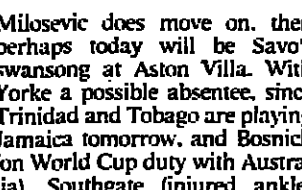


**Peter Robinson**  
It was textbook Savo. First, he tells a Yugoslav newspaper that he wants to play in Italy (have to take this on trust, can't read Serbo-Croat), then Napoli say "We're in Italy, he must mean us" and make a £4.5 million bid. Great run, perfect cross, an open goal, surely. No, Savo says: "No one has contacted me from Napoli and I don't want to go there." Chance gone. Er, no. Talks, as they say, are due to take place, so we leave Savo Milosevic chasing a bobbling ball around a Villa Park penalty area, trying to turn a tap-in into a 30-yard thunderbolt. It was ever thus.

If those talks do take place and



**DERBY COUNTY**  
v  
**COVENTRY CITY**  
Today, 3.0



**Richard Hobson**  
He might have helped Jamaica to the World Cup finals last weekend, he might even be the most revered of the "Reggae Boys", but Kingston is many miles from Derby and Dean Burton can expect to decorate the substitutes' bench this afternoon.

Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, believes that it is a sign of progress that supporters should be unhappy with a return of five points from the last five FA Carling Premiership games, each against stiff opposition. The same fixtures realised just two points last season and Smith is right to warn that development can only

and Taylor (suspended) definite non-starters. Villa will make changes, Oakes taking over in goal and Ehiogu, Draper and Collymore, back in training after a nose operation, standing by.

**ASTON VILLA** (probable 3-5-2): M. Oakes — U. Ehiogu, S. Shantoro, R. Gomez — G. Charles, F. Nelson, M. Draper, S. Gomez — A. Wright — S. Collymore, S. Milosevic.

**TELEVISION:** Match of the Day, goal highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Draw.



**LIVERPOOL**  
v  
**BARNESLEY**  
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



**Matt Dickinson**  
"Now we'll see what they are made of," Danny Wilson, the Barnesley manager, declared after his side's 4-1 thrashing at Southampton in their last FA Carling Premiership fixture.

"I am sick of coming in after games and trying to explain another heavy defeat, so it is time the players took some responsibility. If we are going to go down, it must be with a fight, not a whimper."

With that unexpected outburst, Wilson dropped the nice guy approach and turned to Mr Nasty. Whether his team follow suit will be one of the principle themes at Anfield today. It would appear that they have little choice.

Like Swindon Town and Bolton Wanderers before them, Barnesley have attempted to blend into the elite by talking the same language of attractive, passing football. They should have realised that at least half the Premiership long since gave up such pretensions and survive on solid organisation and grit.

While Wilson was right to castigate his players for their woeful showing at The Dell, he too must take some of the blame for Barnesley's plight. The collection of individuals was never likely to be good enough to survive at this level, individual errors costing countless goals, but their approach has too often appeared to invite disaster.

That is a criticism levelled at Liverpool more than a few times in recent seasons and their uncertain start to the season has left them with no margin for error against teams as vulnerable as today's visitors if they are to mount a championship challenge.

Even without Ince, who starts a three-match suspension, and Fowler, who continues his, they should have little difficulty despatching Wilson's side.

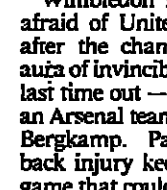
**LIVERPOOL** (probable 4-4-2): J. Jones — R. Jones, G. McNamee, D. McGivern, S. Berges — P. Borge, J. Flanagan, O. Leighton, S. McManis — M. Carr, K. Fagan.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Barnesley to the slaughter — again.



**WIMBLEDON**  
v  
**MANCHESTER UNITED**  
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



**Brian Glanville**  
The Wimbledon faithful can start practising their chant of "There's only one Stole Soakken", for the Norway midfielder is likely to make his debut against Manchester United today with hopes that he can compensate for the severe loss of his compatriot, Oyvind Leonhardsen.

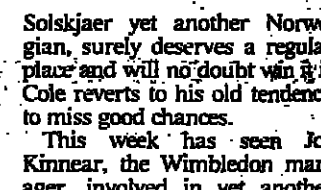
Wimbledon have never been afraid of United, less still now after the champions lost their aura of invincibility at Highbury last time out — and that against an Arsenal team without Dennis Bergkamp. Pallister's chronic back injury keeps him out of a game that could expose United's defence to Wimbledon's famous aerial bombardment. Last season, United romped through the opening day league game 3-0 with David Beckham scoring that astonishing goal from the halfway line. Wimbledon took revenge in the FA Cup, drawing at Old Trafford, winning the replay at Selhurst Park.

They will have to keep a close eye on Scholes, the hero of England's win against Cameroon last weekend, who will doubtless be firing on all cylinders on the verge of his third match suspension. Cole will surely be more effective than he was at Highbury, Schneichel is unlikely to look as vulnerable as he did there and Sheringham, who scored twice against Arsenal before going off, is fit.

Cole has just been given a long new contract and this will no doubt help his confidence, but



**LEEDS UNITED**  
v  
**WEST HAM UNITED**  
Tomorrow, 4.0



**Oliver Holt**  
Last season, perhaps, most would have assumed that Leeds United, the masters of solid defence, would have attempted to nullify the traditional attacking trio of West Ham, taken advantage of their equally traditional defensive frailty and sneaked off with a 1-0 win. Not any more.

Twice this season, Leeds have been involved in near-classic 4-3 victories, first with a topsy-turvy win over a free-scoring Blackburn Rovers side at Ewood Park in September and then, a fortnight ago, with their bravura comeback from three goals down against Jim Smith's resurgent Derby County team.

That win, on top of a recent run of impressive form, signalled that Leeds seem to have a genuine chance of qualifying for Europe this season and that the strictures of George Graham are beginning to kick in after the traumatic period of doubt, dull play that marked his arrival at Elland Road.

One of the secrets of his success this season appears to be that he has been able to keep a remarkably settled side — he has only used 14 outfield players compared to, say, the 25 chosen by Southampton — and the increasing familiarity has bred confidence in the chosen players.

Tomorrow, Leeds will be without Harry Kewell, on duty today for Terry Venables' Soccerros in the World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran.

**LEEDS UNITED** (4-4-2): M. Marley — G. Halls, L. Riecke, D. Whelan — G. Kelly, D. Haglin, L. Bowyer, A. Ribeiro, D. Egan — R. Wallace, J. Hazzard.

**TELEVISION:** Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.

**PREDICTION:** Leeds to continue winning streak.



**LEICESTER CITY**  
v  
**BOLTON WANDERERS**  
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

level. In Thompson, they have one of the most promising mid-field players in the FA Carling Premiership in Fish, a centre half of undoubted class — but while Blake continues his profligate ways in attack and while ill discipline knows away at Colin



**BOLTON WANDERERS**  
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

**LEICESTER CITY** (probable 4-4-2): M. Poole — G. Rieley, J. Landon, C. Duff, — S. Bruno — P. Carr, J. Carr, C. Powell — S. Bruno — P. Carr, J. Carr, C. Powell.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

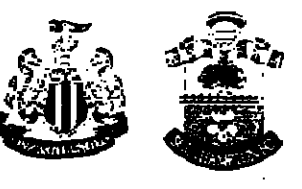
**PREDICTION:** Derby to win a close game



**NEWCASTLE UNITED**  
v  
**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

**Ivo Tennant**  
Faustino Asprilla has declared that he has no intentions of remaining inactive in what he perceives to be the freezing temperatures of the North East. Hence his keenness to make his first appearance for Newcastle United today since October 1 and, more importantly, to play against Barcelona in the European Cup next Wednesday.

Bearing in mind the length of Asprilla's absence with a groin injury and the impending visit to Spain, Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, is deliberating over whether to leave him on the substitutes' bench for much of the match against Southampton.



**SOUTHAMPTON** (probable 4-4-2): J. Jones — S. Watson, A. Rieley, P. Abbott, S. Fagan — S. Girdle, R. Lee, D. Barry, J. Jones — P. Abbott, S. Girdle, R. Lee, D. Barry, J. Jones.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Newcastle to win by two goals

Todd's resources, they will struggle. Sellars completes his ban today, but Holdsworth, cup-tied in midweek, is back.

Leicester are also in something of a slump and today they must do without the suspended Heskey and, probably, Walsh. "We have slipped recently," Elliott, their new Scotland defender, admitted. A golfing break in Ireland should have re-charged the squad's batteries enough to secure victory.

**LEICESTER CITY** (probable 4-4-2): M. Poole — G. Rieley, J. Landon, C. Duff, — S. Bruno — P. Carr, J. Carr, C. Powell — S. Bruno — P. Carr, J. Carr, C. Powell.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Home win

Richardson are expected to be fit enough to play. Surprisingly, Ostenstad, the 25-year-old from Norway who scored 15 goals last season, could be included. He played for 45 minutes in a reserve match at Luton Town in midweek and has recovered sufficiently after surgery on an ankle. It was feared that he would not be fit for any kind of football before Christmas.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED** (probable 4-4-2): J. Jones — S. Watson, A. Rieley, P. Abbott, S. Fagan — S. Girdle, R. Lee, D. Barry, J. Jones — P. Abbott, S. Girdle, R. Lee, D. Barry, J. Jones.

**TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

**PREDICTION:** Newcastle to win by two goals

### ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

It's a cra but I'd manag

1. MANCHESTER UNITED
  2. ARSENAL
  3. BLACKBURN ROVERS
  4. CHELSEA
  5. LEEDS UNITED
  6. LIVERPOOL
  7. LEICESTER CITY
  8. DERBY COUNTY
  9. WIMBLEDON
  10. NEWCASTLE UNITED
  11. COVENTRY CITY
  12. CRYSTAL PALACE
  13. SOUTHAMPTON
  14. WEST HAM UNITED
  15. ASTON VILLA
  16. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
  17. EVERTON
  18. BOLTON WANDERERS
  19. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
  20. BARNESLEY
- ATTACK
1. Dalglish
  2. Bergkamp
  3. Wright
  4. Carr
  5. Leighton
  6. Borge
  7. Berges
  8. Landon
  9. Jones
  10. Watson
  11. Rieley
  12. Fagan
  13. Carr
  14. Powell
  15. Bruno
  16. Abbott
  17. Barry
  18. Jones
  19. Watson
  20. Rieley
- DEFENCE
1. Marley
  2. Wallace
  3. Haglin
  4. Kelly
  5. Rieley
  6. Carr
  7. Carr
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  20. Carr











**BLOODY SWEAT & BEERS**

**TETLEY'S**  
BITTER

OFFICIAL  
BEER  
ENGLAND  
RUGBY







# Changing the rein

In his undemonstrative way, Captain Mark Phillips has become a world expert



Phillips with one of his pupils at Ashford Castle in County Mayo



AND CHAMP AT ASHFORD YESTERDAY

thinking

...the thing about meeting Mark Phillips is that it brings you straight into a don't-mention-the-war situation. I know I'm not going to mention that Family, but how can I make him know I know?

It is a delicate piece of social manoeuvring and the etiquette books don't help you a bit. Which means that there is always a wariness about Phillips. It is something that everybody who meets him must deal with and naturally, and rightly, that counts double for a journalist.

I have known many a horse with the same kind of air about him: big, strapping fellows of imposing presence and massive self-confidence, but who are always likely to spook at anything they take a dislike to. Phillips is filled with conversational spookiness; no doubt a defensive reaction that comes not from his nature, but from hard-won experience.

Who could blame him? There came a period in two or three horse-filled days with Phillips, when the horse I had been loaned, a dominant type who insisted on being at the front, had to walk alongside the lead horse, which was ridden, of course, by Phillips. Horsey etiquette demands a little, but not too much that at such a point. So I made an amiable remark about the pleasures of a young family — and at once prompted that infinitesimal spook, that sampling of every remark for intrusiveness or impertinence.

I followed with a joke about my own domestic life — this is just small talk, Mark, honest — and the tiny point of tension was resolved and he made a joke of his own. Just two chaps on horses, talking about things such as life and horses. Life should be like that.

Phillips has a strange facial tic. It may be physiologically-based, for all I know, but it is utterly characteristic of the man, nonetheless. His eyes half close and stay that way — half-blinked, unblinking, self-protecting. It is a slightly disturbing expression. You suspect that he has grown to require more personal space than most.

The trouble is that Phillips has suffered the tragedy of being famous for the wrong reason. He played a long season or two before he was written out of that long-running soap, The Windsors, and the thing about that kind of fame is that it leaves you typecast.

Phillips is seen now as the

## Jultara can make presence felt over National fences

ASCOT BBC1

1.20: Aardwolf can continue the good run of Charlie Brooks, despite being out of the handicap. Best racing right-handed with give in the ground, the six-year-old was in the process of running a good race when falling on his seasonal reappearance at Sandown (where Dextra Dove was tail off). Glennot finished well ahead of Cool Dawn at Wincanton but is unproven on this surface, and Cool Dawn could be a big danger with Andrew Thornton aboard.

1.55: The hurdling career of Real Estate did not get off to an ideal start at Kempton behind Sound Appeal, but there were genuine excuses for that run and this well-regarded Flat recruit is expected to do much better. He won two middle-distance handicaps for Chris Wall last summer and is proven on soft ground. Ian Balding enjoys considerable success with his small string of jumpers so a market move for Papua would be significant. Monarch's Pursuit, from Tim Easterby's in-form yard, is the best of those to have run.

2.30: see facing page.



AINTREE BBC1

1.05: The new connections of Harlequin Chorus evidently believe him to be well treated, giving him a first look at fences in this handicap. Only modest with Jim Old last year, he will come on for his encouraging reappearance over timber at Newbury. He stays further and handles soft ground. Storm Run, bang there when falling out at Cheltenham last week but dropped back in trip, would appear to need an even stiffer test. Stanmore's form is all on faster ground, so the danger is Winstford Hill, who ran out a most impressive winner at Worcester in September.

1.35: The presence of the front-running Easy Listening and Khalid could ensure a strong place here. That was

one of the factors that set up Good Vibes for an impressive defeat of Alabang at Wetherby on his reappearance. He acts well suited by sitting off the pace is Chai-Yoi, who showed his liking for this sharp track last year. Flying Eagle, easy winner of an uncompetitive race at Sandown, has more to do here.

2.10: The bold-jumping Stormracker should be quite a spectacle over the National fences here, but he is ideally suited by faster ground. Young Hustler, beaten by only one horse in two appearances in this race, may need the run this time after his long lay-off. Nor can his stablemates, Dakyns Boy and the National third, Camelot Knight, be backed with confidence given the patchy form of their grain this term. Service and Court Melody would enter calculations but make the odd mistake. Sounds Strong made a worthy return at Wetherby, but lacks the potential of Jultara, who is worth forgiving an uncharacteristic mishap at Kempton. He is still out of the handicap, but that is less of a concern in long-distance chases, and he could prove well handicapped anyway.

### RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

**Ascot**  
Going: good to soft (heavy course), soft (hurdles)  
1.00 (2m 4f hdl) 1, Supreme Charm (W Walsh, 9-4 fav), 2, Monarch (9-10), 3, Mayday Magic (12-1), 4, Mr. N. 10-1, 5, D.F. 14-0, 6, T. 21-0, 7, D.F. 22-0, 8, D.F. 23-0, 9, D.F. 24-0, 10, D.F. 25-0, 11, D.F. 26-0, 12, D.F. 27-0, 13, D.F. 28-0, 14, D.F. 29-0, 15, D.F. 30-0, 16, D.F. 31-0, 17, D.F. 32-0, 18, D.F. 33-0, 19, D.F. 34-0, 20, D.F. 35-0, 21, D.F. 36-0, 22, D.F. 37-0, 23, D.F. 38-0, 24, D.F. 39-0, 25, D.F. 40-0, 26, D.F. 41-0, 27, D.F. 42-0, 28, D.F. 43-0, 29, D.F. 44-0, 30, D.F. 45-0, 31, D.F. 46-0, 32, D.F. 47-0, 33, D.F. 48-0, 34, D.F. 49-0, 35, D.F. 50-0, 36, D.F. 51-0, 37, D.F. 52-0, 38, D.F. 53-0, 39, D.F. 54-0, 40, D.F. 55-0, 41, D.F. 56-0, 42, D.F. 57-0, 43, D.F. 58-0, 44, D.F. 59-0, 45, D.F. 60-0, 46, D.F. 61-0, 47, D.F. 62-0, 48, D.F. 63-0, 49, D.F. 64-0, 50, D.F. 65-0, 51, D.F. 66-0, 52, D.F. 67-0, 53, D.F. 68-0, 54, D.F. 69-0, 55, D.F. 70-0, 56, D.F. 71-0, 57, D.F. 72-0, 58, D.F. 73-0, 59, D.F. 74-0, 60, D.F. 75-0, 61, D.F. 76-0, 62, D.F. 77-0, 63, D.F. 78-0, 64, D.F. 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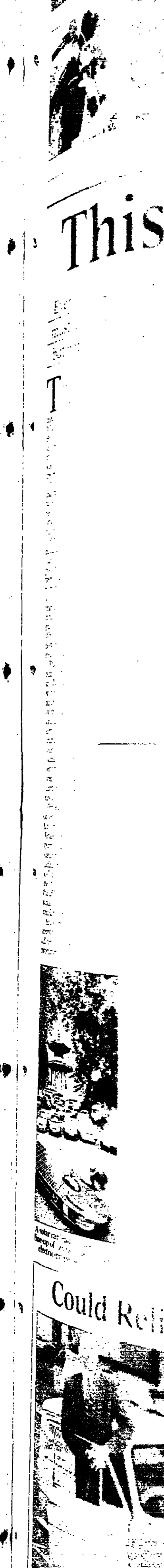
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Is this really a new Norton?

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Why the bus can't compete any more

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Rewing up for the RAC Rally

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

# This road cure is going to hurt

Everyone agrees the Government must do something about traffic — but not to them, says Alan Copps

The first target has already been singled out: stand by for more howls of protest from that much-pollarded creature, the company car driver. When the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, stands up on Tuesday to deliver his pre-Budget statement in the Commons, his words will be keenly examined by everyone in the transport business.

Ministers and officials have indicated this week that stiffer taxes on company cars are likely to be balanced by tax breaks for those whose employers pay for season tickets.

But before the much-heralded integrated transport policy designed to tackle congestion and pollution takes shape, the Government has a mountain of paper work to climb — the 4,000 replies to its consultation document on transport issued in August. These, it has promised, will play a major part in shaping the White Paper on transport to be published next spring.

That we rely too heavily on the car is not in dispute, even the motor manufacturers accept that. The figures on the right show how dramatically our patterns of travel have shifted in the past 35 years. But a glance at some of those replies serves only to emphasise what a mass of conflicting interests and historic misconceptions any new policy has to resolve.

For example, the company car driver might seem a popular target for increased taxation, but the Retail Motor Industry Federation points out that the number of company cars, according to the tax definition, has already fallen from 1.95 million to 1.65 million in the past five years. It estimates that of the 25.5 million cars on Britain's roads only 5.35 million are used regularly by business.

Since company cars now account for more than 50 per cent of all new car sales, those cars most prominently in the line of tax-

ation's fire are the newest, and therefore the cleanest on the roads. Private motorists going to and from work, school, the shops or just for a drive are likely to cause greater pollution.

Only one thing is going to get those drivers out of their cars: a drastic improvement in public transport. That is the one point of agreement in almost every response.

Railtrack, which perhaps stands to gain more than anyone else from such a change, says it could double services within 15 years if the demand were there. But demand will only grow, it says, if road users are made to pay the "true social costs" of their journeys. According to its calculation, road users pay only 28 per cent of the true cost of any journey at the time they make it (the petrol bill, rather than road maintenance, depreciation, servicing, etc). So a great deal of its response spells out how road users might be taxed to make them more aware of this.

Meanwhile, the motor industry is demanding to know what happens to the £26 billion taxes already paid annually by motorists. Even if not spent on roads, it should be spent on transport, says RMI chief executive, Christopher Margowan.

Almost everyone who responded to the consultation wants some sort of subsidy for their own interest.

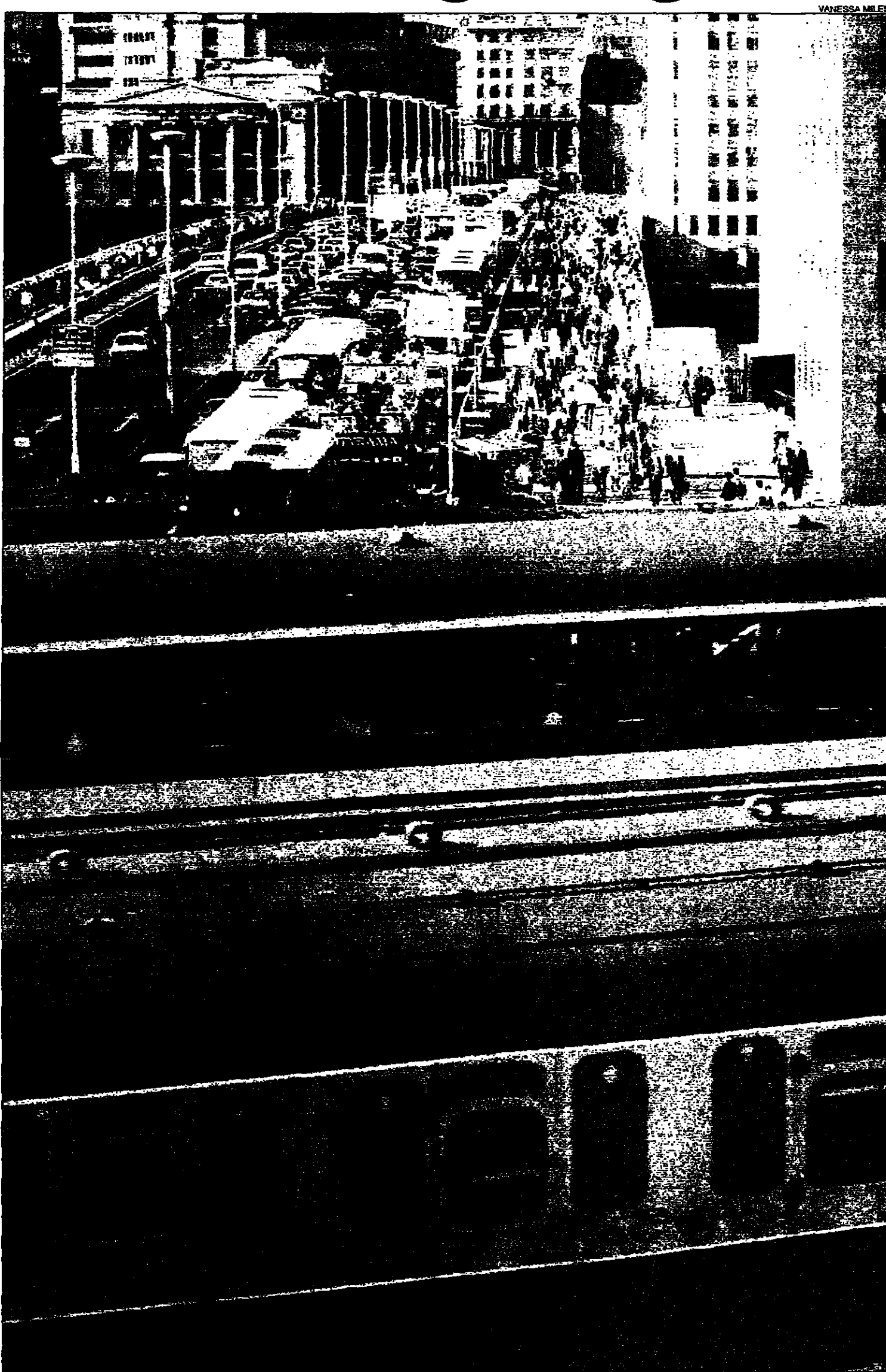
The Government has taken one small practical step by starting to convert its own fleet of 175 ministerial cars to run on natural gas. The Energy Saving Trust, which, through the Powershift initiative, is responsible for encouraging clean alternative fuels, applauds this. At last month's motor show it organised an impressive array of gas and electric-powered vehicles.

But it, too, says tax breaks are essential if others are to follow the Government's example. In particular it says the image of the bus must be cleaned up. Operators are currently reluctant to change to cleaner fuels because they get a rebate on the duty they pay on conventional fuels.

Powershift admits that alternative fuels can only be part of the answer, but says that since a massive switch away from road transport is unlikely, it is vital to educate the public about which fuels are cleaner than petrol or diesel and to make them more widely available.

While most responses focus on city traffic, there are several good ideas for rural areas, such as one from the Council for the Protection of Rural England for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to be given priority over motorised traffic on certain lanes.

Of the alternative means of transport, the RMI makes a good case for motorcycles, in particular scooters and mopeds, to reduce congestion and pollution, especially in cities. But the provision of secure parking at stations and workplaces for these vehicles is essential, it says. The Government, however, is already considering taxing parking places at work.

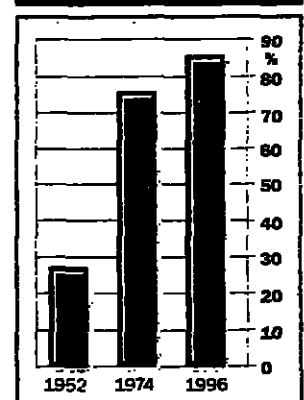


Railroaded by policy: train operators say they could double their services if new taxes were tough enough to force drivers out of cars

## Rise of king car

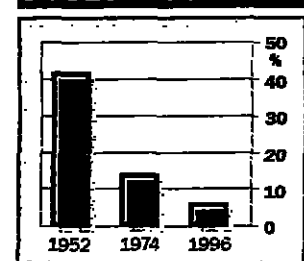
IN 1952 Britons travelled 219 billion kilometres (136.5 billion miles) in the UK, more than 60 per cent of them on public transport. Last year we travelled more than three times as far; 86 per cent by car. All other forms of domestic transport (except for air) have declined dramatically. The graphs show the percentage of all travel accounted for by various modes of transport.

### CARS & VANS



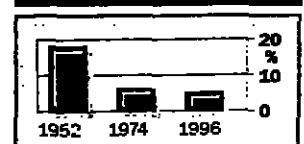
THE PROPORTION of travel in private cars more than doubled from 1952 to 1996. It has grown steadily at 1.2 per cent a year since. The total distance of all road journeys has increased by more than 150 per cent.

### BUSES & COACHES



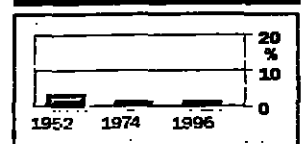
BUSES declined quickly after the war. Bus travel was halved to 21 per cent between 1952 and 1964. Since then, regardless of reorganisations and privatisation the decline has been absolutely steady.

### RAIL



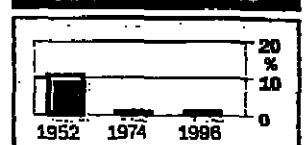
The distance travelled by Britons on the railways has remained remarkably steady, between 35 and 40 billion kilometres per year. But the train's share of travel has declined from 18 per cent to just 5 per cent.

### MOTORCYCLES



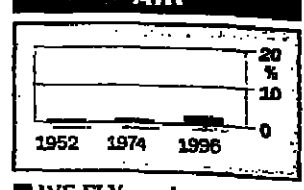
MOTORCYCLE use reached a peak of 4 per cent from 1957-1961 but then fell sharply to 1 per cent by 1968. The early 1980s saw a resurgence followed by another fall. Current trends suggest another rise.

### PEDALCYCLES



NOTHING matches the fall of pedal power. In 1952 it accounted for more than 10 per cent of all our travel. By 1968 the figure was 1 per cent and despite booming cycle sales it remains at that level.

### AIR



WE FLY much more now than we did in 1952 — a total of 6.3 billion kilometres last year against just 2 million in the 1950s. But as a proportion of our domestic people-moving, it remains negligible.

## Could Reliants be the answer? Ask the American Embassy



Hot to Trotter: Mike Gilbert bought Del Boy's car from the television series. Only Fools and Horses

Only fools want lots of horsepower, it seems, when driving in Britain's capital. So the American embassy has taken a leaf out of Del Boy's book and bought three Reliant Robins.

With next week's draft budget likely to point the way towards reducing the size of cars clogging Britain's roads, the embassy could find itself among the trendsetters. It is so pleased with the three-wheelers that it has just bought two newer models.

"They are economical, manoeuvrable and good for running about town," says an embassy spokesman. The Americans' Robins are used to ferry maintenance crews to repair embassy houses and to carry general supplies, the spokesman adds.

For Americans used to cheap petrol, the Robin offers a special relationship with comparatively expensive British garage forecourts. The embassy's Robin Giant Pick-Up and the Super Van get between 50 and 72 miles to the gallon. The Super Vans cost just £5,140 each and road tax is £60 a year instead of

### Eve-Ann Prentice on three-wheeling

£150 for more conventional vehicles.

The manoeuvrability and low running costs may prove even more apposite after next Tuesday's announcements. The Government has already said it plans to reduce the number of parking places in London, sharply increase parking fees and cut the number of residents' parking permits. The scheme, revealed by Transport Minister Glenda Jackson last month, has brought warnings from the RAC that some areas of London could be killed off if people are prevented from driving to them.

Westminster Council, meanwhile, is to introduce Britain's highest parking meter fees in parts of the borough next year. The increase, from £2.40 to £3 an hour, will be accompanied by increases in parking ticket fines, from £60 to £80 in the West End. So a Trotter-style, three-wheeler-dealer van can reach

parking places that a stretch-limo could only dream of.

Jonathan Heynes, who worked his way up from the shop floor at Jaguar to senior management, liked Reliant Robins so much that he bought the factory in Tamworth, Staffordshire in January, 1996. "Clearly the American embassy thinks it is a unique vehicle and that gives us a tremendous edge to go to other embassies and seek commissions," he says. The company is now on a high with 250 Robins, worth £500,000, on order. "We have improved quality very much and there is confidence in the new company," says Heynes. "The cars have a revised cooling system, better instrumentation, interior trim and engine quality."

The forebears to the Trotters' trusty Reliant van were first produced by Tom Lawrence Williams in the garden of his home in Tamworth in 1934. The first passenger car, the Regal, was made in 1953 and boasted a revolutionary (literally) steering wheel instead of a handlebar, and managed a top speed of 60mph.















# go

## RAC Rally starts tomorrow: we ride with a champion, join the virgins and study the first diesel entrant

**Wiy Morag  
Preston shook**

**I'll never  
rally to  
that man's  
sice again**

The last time Juha Kankkunen, rallying's most successful driver, invited me for a drive, it was £250,000 car broke down. I might have been wise to have it at that.

Kankkunen, 38, winner of 21 rallies and four world championships in a year and went out of the pent Australian rally after hitting a tree. Nevertheless, he shone on the rally track as a driver on the day of our sound try, and as it was only day to go before the start of the RAC Rally, I comforted myself with the fact that Kankkunen was, no doubt, saving himself for the big one.

I blithely took my place in a line of enthusiastic junior rally drivers who had won a competition to ride with Kankkunen. Oh dear, looks like you're under seven years old — not very lucky, said a helpful engineer. But the helmet and the inscrutable Finn vs smiling at last, so with a relief of unshakeable confidence I buckled up in the Escort ext to him.



Strapped in next to Juha Kankkunen, Morag remembers the old warning, "May your wishes never come true"

But what I had mistaken for a "Shall we dance?" smile was the Devil's in disguise. Hell-bent on showing me what I had missed out on previously, Kankkunen pulled out all the stops. Through mud and over gravel, the car popped and banged until we were travelling at speeds of up to 80mph. That might not sound fast, but when the corners are so

tight that you find yourself being driven sideways, there is nothing in the world like it. Which is not to say I did not enjoy it. Grinning from ear to ear (I have no idea why), I turned helplessly to my driver to check that he had not gone completely bonkers, and was still holding on to the wheel. To reassure myself again, I looked down to check his pixie-

booted feet. One of them did not leave the accelerator. The brakes — which can bring the car to an immediate halt at the gentlest of nudges — were rudely ignored until the turn of every corner.

My stomach shrank and I stopped breathing for the whole of the outing. It was like sitting next to a robot, but this one can read, and I suddenly

had the horrible idea that he might have been offended by my earlier article deriding his ability at the wheel of a family car. This was his high-speed revenge.

I was still smiling when we eventually came to a halt, but I scrambled as quickly as I could from the seat of his car. No one leapt to wrap a reassuring arm around my shoulder or lead me to a nearby seat.

They thought I had enjoyed it — until minutes later when, with a mug of sweet milky tea in my hand, I started to shake. I have only ever seen people do this after car crashes, but my heart-stopping experience must have been the next worst thing.

Meanwhile, Kankkunen was coolly preparing for his flight home to join his wife and young son at their cottage in Laukaa, Finland. It was all in a day's work for him. For me, it was a once-in-a-lifetime ride — never ever to be repeated.

**Claire Bowen  
is almost ready**

**Nervous  
start for  
the first  
stagers**

For anyone who loves this crazy sport, competing in the Network Q RAC Rally is the ultimate thrill.

So when I was asked to join one, I took only a couple of seconds to give a resounding yes — even though I had never met the man who asked the question and I hadn't competed for almost eight years.

The man I said "yes" to, Barry Strong, has quite a pedigree in rallying with six motor club association championship titles to his credit and over 100 class wins.

I could see that I had my work cut out to match his pace, so out came the rally navigator manuals, which became compulsory bedtime reading. Barry, an area business manager for Proton, and I faced a massive amount of preparation before driving on to the start ramp tomorrow.

As first-timers we were in at the deep end. And our service crew, specially selected Proton employees, have had no previous experience of rallying.

Barry, who lives in



Three novices: Barry Strong, Claire Bowen and Proton

Wrotham near Sevenoaks, burnt the midnight oil to prepare our 1600cc Proton Compact, a car that has never been rallied in Europe before and had to be specially prepared before being accepted as a competitive vehicle.

While Barry worked on the car I had another mission — to get fit. The RAC Rally is a gruelling event and fitness equals better concentration and more stamina. I also had to pass a stress-related heart-fitness test.

October saw our first major setback as our entry was rejected, but a few days later

we were placed on the reserve list. Then came the call one Friday that we had made it on to the competitors list.

It has been a long hard slog getting here and the more we know about the event, the more concerned we become. "I'm really apprehensive. This is my first attempt at rallying in a front-wheel-drive car but I expect I'll be OK at the end of the first stage," says Barry.

I might just take a little longer to get into the swing of it. But one thing is certain. For both of us, Sunday morning in Cheltenham will be the realisation of our dreams.



Diesel-powered Citroën ZX: praying for lousy weather

If there were a prize for economy in the RAC Rally then the Citroën ZX driven by Nigel Griffiths and Neil Jones would be odds-on favourite. Its 1.9-litre diesel engine is the first to power an entry in the event's 35-year history.

The team is praying for the worst possible weather, which would bring out the best in the car. Sponsored by Greenery, the specialist clean diesel fuel suppliers, the car returns an astonishing 26mpg even in the most earnest competition.

**AUOFAX by David Long and Les Evans**

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# WEEKEND MONEY

## GO IT ALONE 57

Limited company, partnership or sole trader?



Over-optimistic house prices are beginning to meet some resistance, says Sara McConnell

## Buyers take the upper hand

This year will be remembered by many buyers as the one when they tried to buy a house and failed. Not because they could not afford it but because there was nothing they wanted to buy.

As the housing market recovery gathered pace at the start of the year, frantic housebuyers, particularly in London and the South East, fought over homes. Contracts were exchanged in days or even hours rather than weeks. Rising prices, fuelled mainly by lack of supply, persuaded many potential sellers to hold back in the hope of a higher price. Those sellers who did come forward then began to gazump buyers.

Amid angry calls for an anti-gazumping law, the Government promised an overhaul of the whole housebuying process in September. Its report next February is expected to be highly critical of the current slow and inefficient system. Only now, as the year ends, are buyers starting to set the pace.

Prospective buyers, particularly in London, are jibbing at over-optimistic asking prices as they feel the pinch of rising interest rates. At the same time, more sellers are putting their homes on the market, easing the shortage of property which has been mainly responsible for pushing up prices. Matthew Ryall, economist at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says: "It's turning into a buyer's market and there should be more property coming on in 1998".

In its latest quarterly review of the housing market, the Nationwide Building Society says there have been "anecdotal reports of buyer resistance" to higher prices. Buyers can now afford to be choosier and are under less pressure to exchange quickly, partly because there is more choice of property and partly because there is less competition from other buyers.

Richard Woolf, of Winkworth, the London estate agent, said: "For the first time in many years we are seeing a greater equilibrium between supply and demand. Although the market remains



ANTHONY UPTON

### The W6 bargain that rose £70,000 in six months

Kate Arthur snapped up what she now realises was a bargain in March this year when she exchanged contracts on a three-bedroom house in southwest London. She had an inkling that prices were rising sharply in Fulham when her two-bedroom flat, bought in 1989 for £116,000, was valued at £165-£170,000 last December (Sara McConnell writes).

"I thought we would get about £145,000," said Ms Arthur, who works for an estate agency but who, like most of her colleagues, was taken by surprise by the strong market

surge. When she sold the flat unexpectedly quickly for £165,000 in February she began to get anxious because she had nowhere to go. She was forced to rent, fortunately finding an unfurnished home through contacts.

Ms Arthur had decided to target the Crabtree conservation area, on the boundary between Hammersmith and Fulham, where bargains could still be had because most of the roads have the less desirable W6 Hammersmith postcode. Rising prices and a shortage of property in Fulham have been forcing many buyers to spread their net over a

buoyant and some record prices have been achieved, buyers are generally more thoughtful about their purchases and more sensitive to overpricing".

Such sentiments mark a sea-change in the housing market since the beginning of 1997. After six years in the doldrums, prices started to rise at the end of last year, forcing analysts such as the Halifax to review their predictions for 1997 upward from 7 per cent to 8 per

cent. Estate agents were caught by surprise and rapidly sold any decent property on their books. Jeremy Duncan, of Rafferty Buckland, in High Wycombe said: "It was as if someone had pulled a switch. Everything took off between November and December".

Sharply rising prices in London captured headlines over the next few months, fuelled by demand from overseas buyers and cash buyers clutching hundreds of thou-

sands of pounds in City bonuses. Buyers who could not afford the choicest areas moved further out causing "ripple effects" in unlikely areas such as Tooting and Hackney. In Battersea, the price of a one bedroom flat rose 30 per cent in three months while the price of a four-bedroom house rose 70 per cent in three years, said Winkworth. More sellers started to flex their muscles by gazumping buyers and accepting higher offers, a practice which revived unwellcome memories of the late 1980s.

The general election in May registered scarcely a blip, as the market powered on. Gordon Brown's first Budget in July generating rumours about the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief and rises in stamp duty brought a rush of activity the weekend before as people tried to exchange contracts to avoid higher taxes. But critics sceptical of press

claims of a housing boom pointed out that the number of transactions was still well down on levels in the late 1980s and that rises were being pushed upwards almost solely because of a shortage of property rather than because more people were buying. According to the Halifax, 1.3 million homes have so far changed hands this year, well down on the 1.6 million expected in a normal year. At the peak of the 1988 boom, 2.2 million transactions were recorded.

Competition between buyers also focused almost exclusively on prime properties, particularly family homes. Studio, one-bedroom flats and shoddy 1980s conversions languished unsold while the first-time buyers, who once would have bought them, were able to leapfrog to larger flats on the back of some of the cheapest mortgage money since the mid 1960s. In High Wycombe, young families are looking for three-bedroom semi-detached houses selling for between £80,000 and £100,000, said Mr Duncan.

Only in the latter part of the year are there signs that first-time buyers are turning back to flats as the cost of mortgage money rises. During this year, the average percentage of net income first-time buyers spend on mortgage repayments has crept up from 30 per cent to 35 per cent. Growing numbers of buyers investing in property to rent has also improved the market for flats, say agents.

The recovery outside London was, and still is, patchy. Some areas including the South East, the South West, East Anglia and the West Midlands have seen some of the best growth, said Mr Ryall. By contrast, the North West and North East and Wales have seen prices remain relatively static. Nationwide reported underlying rises of just 1.3 per cent in Wales in the third quarter of last year compared with 5.3 per cent in Greater London. Between the third quarter of 1996 and the third quarter of 1997, house prices across the UK rose by 12 per cent, while in Greater London the rise was 30 per cent.

### Prices may surge 11% next year

Next year could see house prices across the country rise up to 11 per cent on average as the cost of borrowing falls and more sellers put their homes on the market, some housing analysts said this week. But others were more cautious, suggesting rises of only 5-7 per cent.

Ed Stanfield, UK economist at SBC Warburg, feels prices will end the year 9.5 per cent up on the end of 1996 and finish 1997 11 per cent up on this year. He said: "We expect prices to carry on rising. They still have some way to get back to mid-1980s levels". Almost for the first time since the market began to turn, regions outside London and the South East will start to see higher prices, he said.

Rising prices will continue to free more people from the negative equity trap, fuelling more activity. Mr Stanfield thinks mortgage rates will fall sharply in the second half of next year, encouraging more buyers into the market. There have been five interest rate rises this year since the general election in May, pushing average mortgage rates up 1.5 per cent. By next summer, they could be 1 per cent lower.

The Nationwide is also optimistic about next year, saying: "confidence remains high, reflecting a strong employment market and solid growth in incomes." But it believes prices could rise just 7 per cent over 1996, against a 12 per cent third quarter year on year rise. It says buyer resistance will choke off some of the excesses of the London market, where some areas have seen 40 per cent rises.

Halifax is more cautious, forecasting prices will rise by no more than 6 per cent over 1996 after ending this year 6 per cent up on last year.

SARA MCCONNELL

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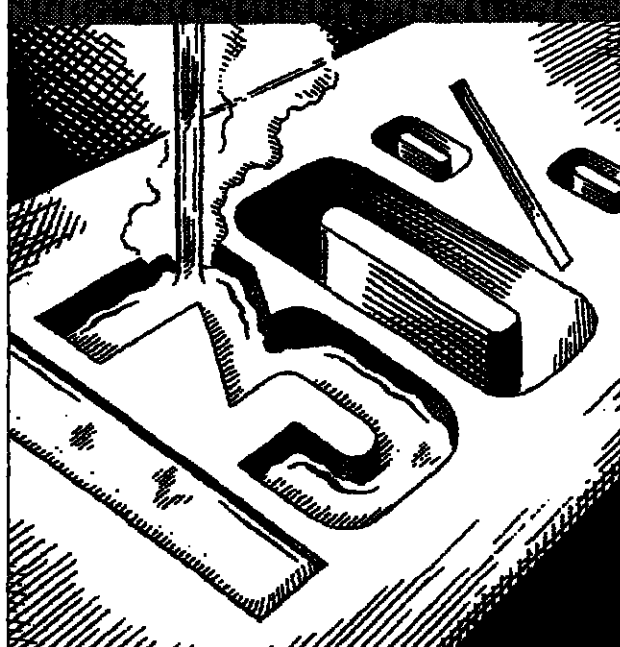
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The Americans claim their system is cheaper. This is questionable. City traditionalists such as Mervyn say the current regime protects smaller investors by preserving pre-emption rights, the ability of existing investors to maintain control of the company by ensuring that any fresh equity is offered to them first. One is entitled to be cynical when big institutions purport to stand up for the rights of the smaller shareholder.

Some smaller companies claim they

But there is one improvement that could be made. At the moment the company's investment bank is usually the lead underwriter as well. This creates an obvious incentive for the bank to put pressure on the company to do things the traditional way, and safeguard its fees. Get rid of that conflict, and it will be easier to decide if there is genuine appetite for change.

## DAVID RUDNICK

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## Stakeholder delay is unforgiveable

Our highly imperfect pension system cannot be reformed overnight. But the delays in announcing firm proposals for the stakeholder pension are beginning to suggest more than just a desire for proper deliberation.

This week ministers called for more consultation on the stakeholder pension, supposedly the central plank of the Government's pension policy. Since anyone involved in pensions has already made lengthy submissions on this subject, it seems strange that we are not closer to a set of rules. We are told that stakeholder pensions will possess every fiscal virtue, being low-cost, flexible and secure, but we still have no idea of exactly how they will improve the retirement lot of the millions of workers not covered by company schemes (see page 64).

The reason why the Government is keeping us in suspense would seem



**COMMENT**  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance Editor

to be its sensitivity on two issues: compulsion and Serps. There is widespread support for obliging workers to contribute a certain percentage of their income to stakeholder pensions, so ensuring a reasonable retirement income. But John Denham, Pensions Minister, merely called for more debate on compulsion.

Presumably he is reluctant to reveal that a contribution of 10 per cent of earnings is seen as a desirable figure. Obviously he fears the cries of "backdoor taxation" that would arise

at such a suggestion. Maybe he is also wary about announcing a bonanza for his pin-striped pals. Compulsion could mean an extra £10 billion a year for the City to manage, a lucrative side-effect.

Stakeholder pensions should logically spell the end of Serps, the additional state scheme for those in jobs without pensions, a Seventies relic with no retro appeal. Here again, Mr Denham preferred not to be specific. But millions currently rely on Serps. Their benefits have

already been twice decreased. If the scheme were discontinued, what future protection would they enjoy?

Ministers should not be afraid of the awkward fact about pensions: a decent existence at 70 requires some sacrifice of lifestyle at 40.

### Cold from the fridge

Private-client brokers are whining about the new Sets trading system. They say that its morning sickness puts investors at a disadvantage, making the spread, the difference between the buying and selling prices of shares, unacceptably wide (see page 63). Their complaints are justified. But the fluster at some firms arises not so much from concern for their clients but from unwillingness to take on the extra risk to themselves that the system involves. While this continues, ask about the spread before you deal.

## Under fire and uncovered

**Susan Emmett on a loophole that allows insurers to avoid a payout in cases like the Luxor massacre**

Thousands of tourists evacuated from Egypt this week will not be able to claim on their travel insurance policies for having their holiday cut short. The massacre at Luxor has exposed a loophole in travel insurance policies. As the tragedy was an act of terrorism, holidaymakers flown back this week will not be able to claim under curtailment or cancellation.

Holidaymakers not only lose the money spent on pre-paid accommodation but any other part of the tour. Even if the tour operator arranges flights home, policyholders are not refunded the cost of insurance — usually around £25 to £30 for adults for a fortnight in Europe.

Most travel insurance policies have a clause excluding claims arising from "war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection or military or usurped power".

Home & Overseas, the insurer that provides cover for the customers of Thomas Cook and Thomson, is sticking firmly to this clause. Insurance companies are only likely to

make an exception for claims for personal accident and medical emergencies.

Vic Rance of the Association of British Insurers said: "Most insurance companies have a clause excluding terrorism. Having said that, if somebody was injured in this attack insurers will be more helpful and pay for the medical treatment but are unlikely to pay for curtailment."

Unless the Foreign Office specifies that a country must be avoided, insurance companies are free to cover travellers. So far the Foreign Office has only "strongly advised" avoiding Luxor.

Tourists who do not return on the emergency flights will have to make their own arrangements and as insurance policies are unlikely to cover these costs, they will have to foot the bill themselves.

Only one major travel insurer, WorldCover Direct, does not include a "terrorism clause" and gives full cover in

the event of terrorism, including cancellation and curtailment. The company scrapped the clause last year after a series of Basque terrorist bombings in Spain.

Jonathan Biles, managing director of WorldCover Direct, said: "We see terrorism as a normal part of the risks associated with travelling around the world and you have to take it into consideration. These attacks are a terrible thing to happen to our customers and it is not fair to just leave them out there. Statistically it does not happen that often."

None of the company's 15 customers visiting Egypt has decided to return on the special flights and the insurers will have to pay for their full accommodation and flight back. So far it has been estimated that this will cost the company at least £10,000.

However, some insurers are making an exception in this case and waiving the clause. Columbus Travel Insurance

has found a way of working around the wording and will pay out for curtailment of holiday. The company will continue to provide full cover for holidaymakers who remained in Egypt but those now buying travel insurance will not be covered for curtailment or cancellation.

Julie Philpott, marketing director at Columbus, said: "Whenever anything like this has happened before, we have worked around the terms of the policy. In circumstances like these it is responsible to look after our customers."

Major tour operators have also made an exception and have not only arranged flights back but refunded some of the cost of the holiday. Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, brought back 1,346 customers this week and cancelled operations for the rest of the month. Holidaymakers will be refunded some of their costs depending how long they had been in Egypt.

First Choice, the tour operator used by three of the murdered Britons, brought back 115 customers. It will not be paying compensation but will refund holidaymakers pro-rata for the days lost. However, Airtours greeted its 351 customers in the airport with vouchers towards a holiday within 12 months.



The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Luxor where 58 tourists were massacred this week

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# To float or not to float?

Demutualisation is an ugly word but has benefited millions of people. Or has it? Caroline Merrell looks at the pros and cons

Mutuality may be a centuries-old concept. But until the middle of this decade it was, at best, a vague notion, somehow reassuring but little understood. Savers, borrowers and policyholders were blissfully unaware of whether the financial institution they had their money with was a mutual or a not. Few realised that they were the true owners of these organisations. But today, the concept of mutuality has become very important for many, when deciding where to put cash.

The stock market flotations of the formerly mutual Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Halifax, Norwich Union and Northern Rock, together with the takeovers of the Bristol & West and National & Provincial, have released £39 billion in cash and shares into the economy — equivalent to £1,700 for every adult in Britain.

Yet despite the obvious "feel-good" factor generated by the release of the money into the economy, companies are still convinced that remaining mutual is the best way forward for their customers. Here *The Times* weighs up the arguments for and against mutuality.

**■ FOR MUTUALITY:** Some of the building societies that wish to retain their traditional status are handing back some of the benefits to customers in the form of higher savings rates and lower mortgage rates.

The societies most vocally in favour of mutuality include the Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. The B&B analysed how much a customer could save by taking out a B&B discounted mortgage. At the end of the discounted period, the borrower would move to a variable rate. Over a six-year period, a customer would pay up to 4 per cent less on a £50,000 mortgage with the B&B than on an equivalent loan with the Halifax — a saving of more than £2,000, larger than the average windfall.

On the savings side, according to

research carried out by Which?, the mutual building societies pay 0.3 per cent more interest than their converting counterparts. Research from the Bradford & Bingley shows that its instant access account pays 0.75 per cent more interest than the average instant-access account.

The life insurance companies claiming an overwhelming commitment to mutuality include Standard Life, Scottish Widows, Scottish Life and Equitable Life. According to Standard Life, mutual companies pay out 2 per cent more than average on personal pensions and endowment savings plans, while floated life insurance companies pay between 3 and 8 per cent less than average.

As Standard Life points out, quoted companies have to satisfy the needs of both shareholders and policyholders. A spokesman said: "We would argue that 10 per cent of returns on the investment funds of companies that are floated on the stock market have to be used to pay shareholders."

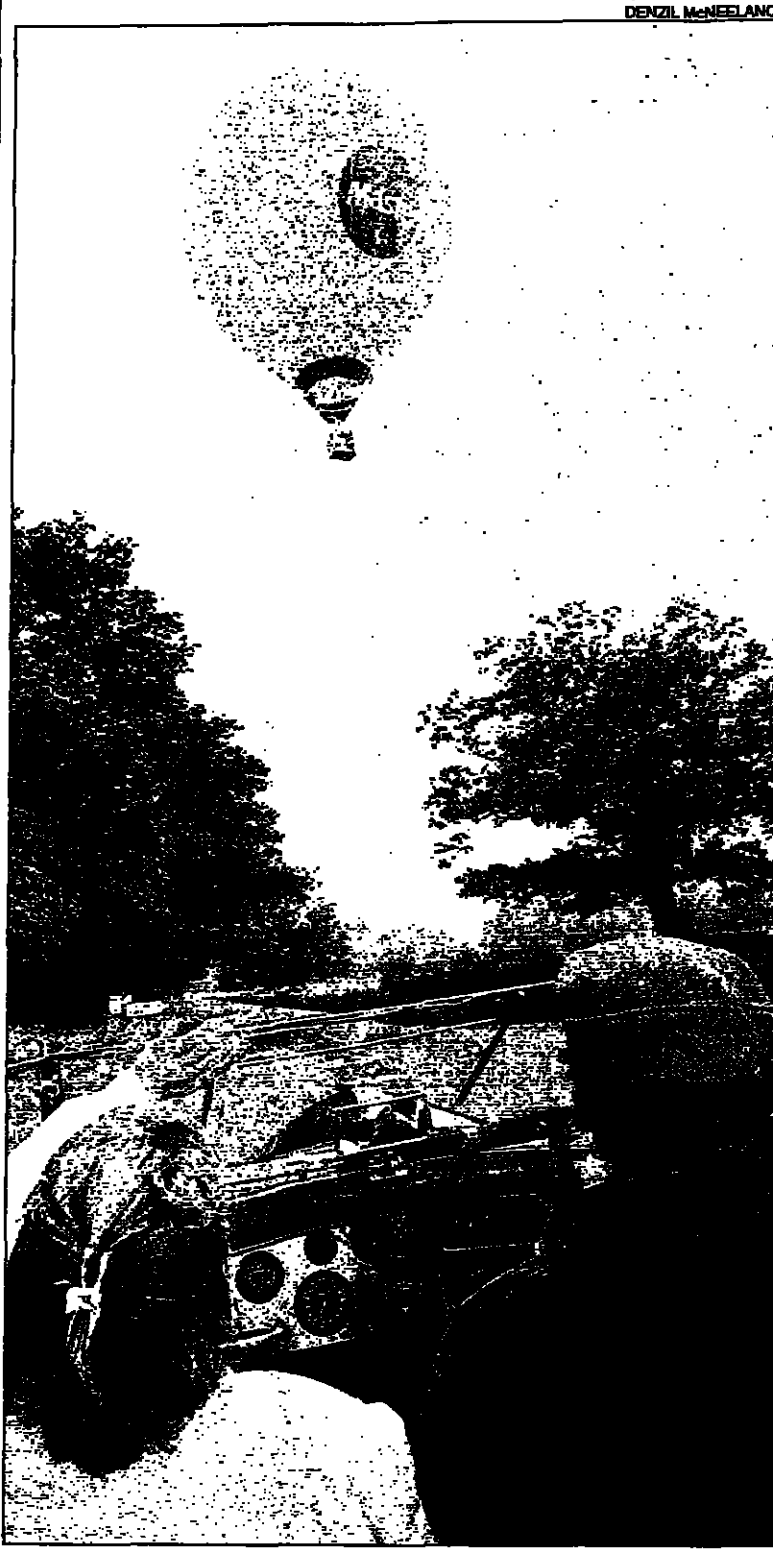
Standard Life claims that the expenses charged by mutual life insurance companies are much lower than those at floated companies.

**■ AGAINST MUTUALITY:** The flotations of the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Norwich Union immediately enriched nearly a third of the population. About 7.6 million people benefited from Halifax free shares. Some of the beneficiaries had balances so small that they never derive an equal benefit from mutuality packages.

The vast majority of shareholders benefited from a basic distribution of 200 shares, worth approximately £1,400. A Nationwide borrower would save only £1,400 on a £50,000 mortgage over a period of more than ten years. If the Halifax shareholder chose to hold on to the shares rather than sell them immediately the £1,400 windfall would have been worth £1,566 at its peak and £1,398 at yesterday's price.

According to the Bradford & Bingley, a £10,000 investment with the society would earn £75 more interest a year than an average account with a bank. It would take 22 years to make up the £1,400 windfall earned by the majority of members of the Halifax.

However, the case is not as clear-cut for insurance companies. Most of the members of the Norwich Union received shares worth £870 to £1,700. However, mutuals would pay out more in bonuses on their life policies.



Float off or stay as you are? What is the long-term cost of immediate benefits?

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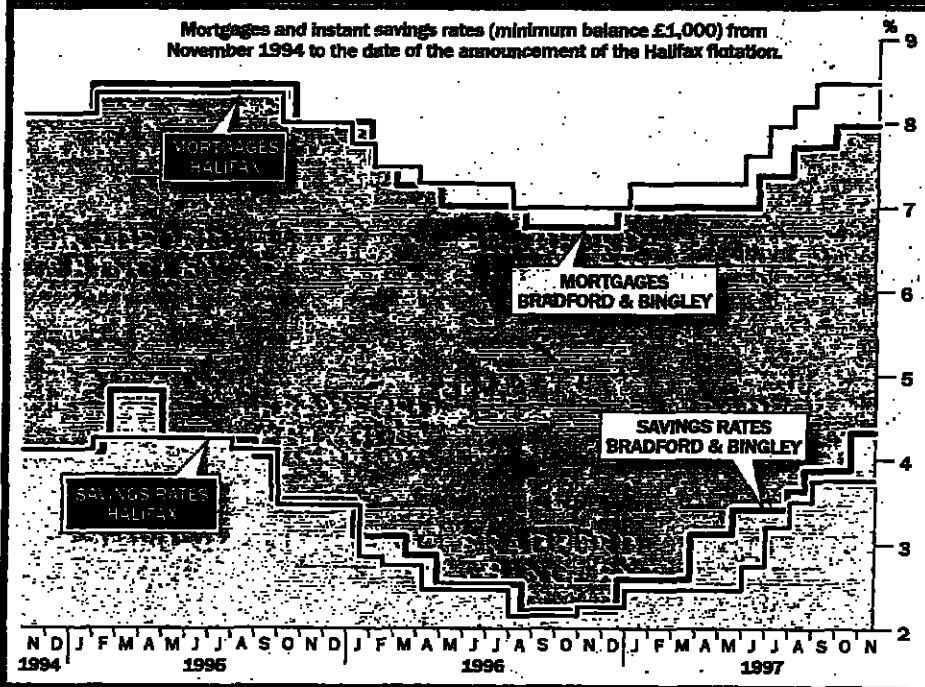
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# How to keep inflation on your side

John Givens weighs up the enemy, takes evasive action, and listens to the forecasts of the experts

Although inflation as a headline grabber has taken a low profile in recent years, it is still out there, a fact illustrated by government figures released last week that showed retail prices were up by 3.7 per cent in the year to October 31. It was the highest inflation rate for two years and up slightly from the 3.6 per cent in the 12 months to September 30.

The figures were only marginally worse than economists expected, but they were enough to change predictions, for the foreseeable future, of bank base rates. City experts now say that rates will be between 7.75 and 8 per cent by next summer, compared with the current 7.25 per cent.

## THE BAD NEWS

Inflation is calculated through the retail prices index, which is a basket of around 650 everyday goods which you might be expected to buy on a regular basis.

However, the major impact for most people in an inflationary economy is a rise in mortgage interest rates. The Bank of England tries to dampen consumer

spending by raising interest rates, making it more expensive to borrow money.

For most people, the biggest single monthly bill they have to meet is to cover the cost of their home loan. When the Bank of England decides it must increase interest rates to cool the economy down, mortgage payers are likely to suffer.

With every 1 per cent rise in the mortgage rate costing a homeowner with a £60,000 interest-only mortgage an extra £46 a month, people trying hard to pay for a roof over their heads soon start feeling the effects of anti-inflationary government policy.

It is not only homeowners who pay. Financial institutions peg the rate at which they charge customers for borrowing money to the Bank of England base rate, so whether it is a large blue-chip company needing millions of pounds to finance a project, or a building society customer taking out a modest loan to buy a car,

rising inflation almost certainly means the cost of borrowing rises.

## THE GOOD NEWS

Every cloud has a silver lining and if you have paid off your mortgage and other loans and have money sitting in bank and building society deposit accounts, then inflation is good news.

Financial institutions need to strike a balance on the interest rates they charge for loans and pay on savings. When the cost of borrowing increases, because inflation has forced bank base rates up, then the interest you earn on savings should also increase.

## HOW TO REACT

When inflation is relatively low, which despite recent rises is still the case in the UK today, it is important to look closely at your investments. Unless the rate of return is well above market averages, the chances are that rising

prices are reducing the value of your savings.

According to Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, the Bristol investment adviser, people with money sitting in low interest deposit accounts need to rethink their strategy. He said: "Bank and building society deposit accounts are offering low interest rates at the moment, which means that many people are seeing the value of their funds being devalued almost on a daily basis."

"This is particularly true of retired people who rely on income from savings to live on, because if their capital remains the same, in real terms its spending power is falling as inflation rises."

Mr Kohn believes the official government inflation figures can mislead the public, who instead should be looking at the effects of "real" inflation. He said: "The retail prices index is an average of the price movements of a basket of goods containing hundreds of items, but if you are spending the

majority of your income on the 20 per cent of these items which have shown the biggest price rises, then the real effect on the pound in your pocket is very different."

"For example, a litre of petrol has gone up by between 10 and 15 per cent since the election, well above the official rate of inflation, and the same could be said of cigarettes."

He believes that to protect the value of investments, funds need to be placed into equities and index-linked products like National Savings Certificates.

"Investors should always look to have a balanced portfolio of equities, gilts and cash and buying into index-linked investments at least gives you a chance of your funds keeping ahead of inflation."

The current tranche of Index-linked National Savings Certificates pays tax-free income of 2.5 per cent, plus the prevailing underlying rate of inflation. You must keep them for five years or face redemption penalties. Like-

wise, you can buy index-linked gilts — government-backed securities, which give an income and return your capital at a predetermined date in the future.

## DON'T PANIC

The Bank of England's method of calculating inflation is often considered controversial because one of the two main indexes includes mortgage interest costs and another excludes them.

The index that shows price rises, including mortgages, is known as the headline rate of inflation and the figure which ignores home loans the underlying rate.

To get an idea of how mortgage rates impact on inflation, the headline rate announced on Wednesday of 3.7 per cent is almost a full 1 per cent higher than the underlying rate of 2.8 per cent. The difference can confuse. Roger Bootle, chief economist of the HSBC Group and author of *The*

*Death of Inflation*, argues that including mortgage interest payments in the inflation indexes is wrong. He said: "Mortgage payments might be the biggest monthly commitment for many people, but for many others it is not, especially those who are retired and have paid off their mortgage and have savings on deposit."

"The headline rate of inflation does not accurately reflect how prices are performing in the shops and the underlying rate gives a much truer measure of what is going on."

## THE OUTLOOK

Mr Bootle believes the recent rise in inflation is part of a short-term trend which will reverse itself in the next year. "I expect the headline rate of inflation to rise from the current level of 3.7 per cent to around 4 per cent by the spring of 1998 before falling to 2.5 per cent by the end of the year, and the underlying rate to stay much the same until next spring before falling to around 2.25 per cent by the beginning of 1999."

# When mother is gone

Caroline Merrell  
on investments  
for children where  
the heart of the  
family is missing

With Christmas only a month away, the time might be right to consider putting some money aside for children, even if they belong to someone else.

Louisa Rutock, of Bourne-mouth, whose friend Eliza Baldock died leaving three children, aged five, seven and ten, wants to invest £1,000 for each child. The money will be paid to each at age 18.

Financial advisers give warning against setting up a trust for the children, pointing out that costs of forming such a vehicle can outweigh the advantages. Under trust arrangements, the person giving the money can keep control over where it ends up. Chris Wicks, of Kidson Imprey Scott Lang, the financial adviser, said: "A trust means that you can alter who you want to give the money to, if one of the children suddenly becomes obnoxious, or if one of them dies."

He says that forming a trust could cost £250, a big slice of the gift. Instead, Mr Wicks and other advisers recommend National Savings as one low-risk way to give children money.

National Savings offers a five-year fixed-rate Children's Bond currently paying 6.75 per cent interest tax-free. Advisers say that the only risk is that interest rates rise above the 6.75 per cent fix. The maximum that can be invested in the bond is £1,000. Economists believe that interest rates may go a little higher, which could disadvantage those locked into this product. After five years, the money could be invested in another set of savings bonds.

Other low-risk products include children's accounts offered by many banks and building societies. The Birmingham Midshires offers an instant-access account paying 6.75 per cent interest, and the Britannia offers an instant-access account paying 7.25 per cent. NatWest has a five-year savings bond with a minimum



investment of £1,000 and 7.25 per cent fixed interest, paid tax free upon maturity.

Because the children are 13, 11 and eight years from majority, advisers say it is possible to take a little more risk with the money. On the whole, unit trusts are the investment vehicle favoured, although Mr Wicks would consider a ten-year savings plan with Tunbridge Well Equitable Friendly Society, pointing out that the eldest child would have to wait until age 20 before it matured.

Friendly societies' savings plans benefit from tax relief on the investment, and, because policies are for ten years, the lump sum at maturity is also

tax free. Mr Wicks says buyers should study the charges.

Amanda Davidson, of Holden Meehan, the adviser, recommends unit trusts. These invest in a range of shares. She says the duration of the investment permits more risk. "I would put 50 per cent of the money in the UK, with the rest in an international fund," she said.

Dani Glover, an adviser with Fiona Price & Partners, sees ethical investments as an option. These avoid investing in companies linked to gambling, tobacco or arms. She points to Family Assurance's United Charities Ethical fund. She says that one advantage of this fund, which has a 6 per

cent initial charge and a 1.1 per cent annual charge, is that it comes packaged with a "bare trust" — a trust under which the children could be named as beneficiaries. The trust is no extra cost.

Mr Wicks recommends internationally diversified trusts. These may be volatile, but, over long periods, can outperform other investments. "I recommend international funds from Guinness Flight, Fidelity and Mercury," he said.

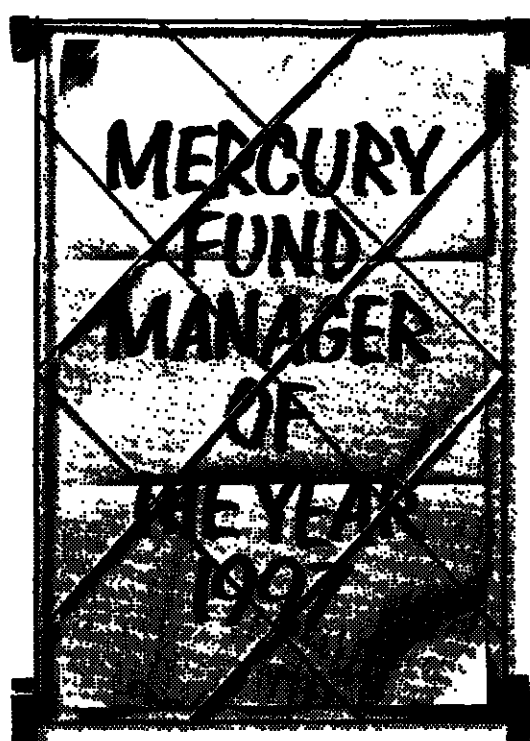
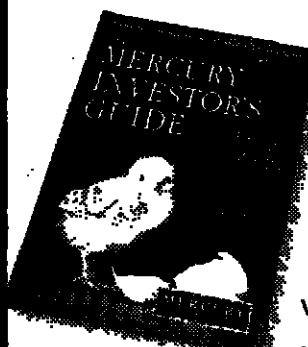
Although children cannot hold the trusts, they can be nominated by their benefactor. So, any income drawn is tax free.

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Patrick Collinson finds contrasting views over a fund's strategy

# Is small going to be beautiful again?

As millions of Spaniards switch on the country's equivalent of Match of the Day on Saturday night, the phones start buzzing at Telepizza, a home delivery pizza chain. Pizza is the new passion for Spaniards in Europe's fastest-growing fast-food market.

Telepizza's phenomenal growth from one Madrid take-away in 1989 to nearly 300 today has seen it overtake Pizza Hut and Burger King and challenge McDonald's for market dominance in Spain.

Guinness Flight, the London investment manager, picks Telepizza as typical of the sort of rapidly-growing small European company that is unknown to British investors but offers enormous potential. Since it was floated last year on the Madrid bourse Telepizza's share price has more than tripled, and stockbrokers still rate it a buy.

Next week Guinness Flight launches two funds for investors wanting a stake in smaller companies outside of the UK. The Global Smaller Companies fund will build a portfolio of smaller company shares across the world, while the European Smaller Companies fund will invest in small and mid-sized companies in Europe outside of the UK.

Investing in smaller companies is currently the vogue among investment managers. Fidelity Investments is heavily promoting its smaller company trusts and small company specialist M&G believes now is the right time to get back into small companies.

The reason is that during the great bull run that swept world stock markets until the recent turmoil, smaller companies lagged behind as giant stocks such as Glaxo, Wellcome and HSBC soared away.

A large gap opened between the valuations of big blue chip companies and smaller company shares, which investment managers now expect will close. The first evidence has come from the recent stock market mayhem, in which smaller company stocks have generally remained firm while blue chips have suffered.

Andrew Couch, Guinness Flight's head of equities, said: "Now is a great environment for smaller companies. Long-term low inflation, low interest rates and a low cost of capital benefit smaller companies all round the world. They have already produced the profits growth, but we've not yet seen it in the share performance."

Simon Davies, an investment adviser at Berry Asset Management in Chelsea, says the timing is excellent for smaller company investment — but only in the UK, Europe and the US, not the Far East or Japan. He said: "The timing, in terms of pure economics, is right. But our view is that things will continue to look very difficult in the Far East."



Even Pamela Anderson's charms could not help Pizza Hut to halt the relentless rise of Telepizza

Others are less sure about the strength of the smaller companies argument. Mark Dampier, of Churchill Investments, said: "There's a big but. The argument seems to be that small companies have done badly for the past five years so in the next five years they will automatically do better. It's an oversimplification. Because of technology, a lot of big companies can behave like small companies, with very nimble run operations which keep an eye on costs."

The volatility of smaller company funds is also a cause of concern. Mr Dampier added: "European smaller companies are as volatile as Hong Kong or even worse. You can bet that when the US falls 10 per cent, Europe will fall much further. You find that smaller companies are either top of the pops or pretty awful."

Mr Davies agrees. He said: "For quite considerable periods of time these funds will be out of favour. Small company shares tend to move in fits and starts."

A smaller company fund is not the right move for a first-time investor, says Mr Davies, but it makes a good alternative to anyone who might previously have been tempted to buy emerging markets funds.

"If you want to buy an emerging market fund, why not buy US smaller companies rather than buying Brazil? It makes a lot more sense."

However, it may be suitable for the younger, less risk-averse investor who has enough cash to put money aside for the long term. Stephen Lansdown, joint managing director of Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "If I was talking to a first-time investor, I doubt if I would recommend this fund, but for someone with adequate funds and who can look ten years out, this is OK."

Is Guinness Flight the right home for an investor wanting to put money into a smaller company fund? Every big investment company offers a UK smaller-company unit trust, though funds specialising outside the UK are less common. Mr Davies said: "Guinness Flight has good figures in the US and Asia, but in the UK and Japan they are third and fourth quartile. I like the story on smaller companies, but I do have concerns about Guinness Flight — do they have the experience to get this fund to perform?"

Hargreaves Lansdown shares similar concerns. Mr Lansdown said: "I wouldn't talk anybody out of buying a Guinness Flight fund, but neither would they be my first choice. They are middle of the road for growth and not as consistently good as Schroders or Perpetual."

Score:  
Berry Asset Management: ★★  
Churchill Investments: ★★  
Hargreaves Lansdown: ★★  
Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

## AMP members start counting their cash

Two million members of Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) voted overwhelmingly this week to approve the life insurer's plans to demutualise and float on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets. Thousands of UK members of AMP voted by post before the general meeting in Sydney on Thursday. A total of 171,000 qualifying customers resident in the UK will now receive an estimated windfall of £2,500 on flotation next May.

The flotation will turn AMP into one of the tenth largest listed companies in Australia. A general meeting and members' vote was held at a concert hall in Darling Harbour, Sydney, on Thursday and 98 per cent of people who voted, voted in favour. The mutual needed a 75 per cent vote in favour in order to press ahead with the plans.

Only UK residents who hold qualify-

ing policies with AMP UK and London Life, which merged with AMP in 1989, will benefit from windfall shares. Members of Pearl, which is owned by AMP, will not receive shares because Pearl is a proprietary company.

Nor will members of subsidiary companies of London Life. Policyholders with London Life Linked Assurances and London Life Managed Fund will not qualify because they were not given membership at the time of the 1989 merger. This also applies to some AMP subsidiary companies based in Australia.

A similar general meeting prior to AMP's merger with London Life in 1989, so many members turned up to vote at a hall in the Barbican in London that the meeting broke down and had to be reconvened in the Café Royal.

The board of AMP recommended

demutualisation last December and a prospectus is now expected to be issued in March or April, followed by a listing in May. Each member will receive an average of 500 free shares which will be quoted in Australian dollars. David Davies, deputy managing director of AMP (UK) said the insurer had not made a final decision on whether shares would also be listed on the UK stock market. A UK listing is expected in 1999.

He added: "We are expecting the shares to be worth the equivalent of £3.99 to £4.70 each, giving members an average £2,500 windfall. We are currently looking into setting up a service to allow people to deal if they wish to sell their shares or buy more. We are still in the process of looking at ways to do this, and the service will be cheap but probably not free."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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\* Source: Mirogall, net income reinvested, £400 invested over 18 years to 1st November 1997.  
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TTC

# Share dealing by phone numbers

For the first time in the UK, investors can carry out automated share dealings by means of a telephone key pad. Charles Schwab (formerly ShareLink) has announced the launch of TouchTone Trader.

Using a PIN, customers can buy and sell shares by inputting stock codes on their telephone key pad. These stock codes cover more than 2,000 London shares, including AIM stocks and investment trusts.

According to Charles Schwab, however, the market, customers will have quick access to their broker. In addition to the dealing, investors can check the balance of account, details of individual holdings, FTSE movements and total portfolio value. Call 0870-601 8888 for more details.

As an active investor you will win some and you will lose some. The *Investor's Guide to Short-Term Trading & Long-Term Investing* believes it holds the secret to winning more often.

According to the book, different strategies are required for short-term trading and long-term investing. The book advises how to understand the

fundamentals of each approach, maximise profits, set achievable targets for growth and minimise tax liabilities. In bookshops priced £25 (Pitman Publishing).

Rather than merely learning from your own trading mistakes, learn from those of others: this is the message of *The Mind of a Trader*. It explores the trading philosophies, behaviour and tactics of the world's top traders, identifying their successful strategies and mental attitudes. It covers all assets from equities and currencies to commodities. Available in bookshops priced £24.99 (Pitman Publishing).

A guide to investment information sources for the private investor has been produced by ProShare. The guide summarises the wide range of sources now available, from traditional paper-based information to the latest electronic media, and assesses each product featured for their ease of use and value for money. Available from ProShare (0171 394 5200) priced £5.95 including postage and packing.

LIZANNE ROSE

## ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at November 20, 1997

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	6.38
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
2 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
3 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.75
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
4 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.15
5 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.65

Source: Chamberlain & Bosc 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

### INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Irish Permanent 0800 973321	ExtraPost Inst	£1	6.75	Mly
C&G (wef 1.12.97) 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	£1,000	7.25	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	£2,500	7.15	Yly
Alliance & Leicester 0845 608880	First Cts Inst	£10,000	7.50	Yly

### NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.85
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Albion 30	30 day p	£25,000	7.80
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	£10,000	7.75
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Fix for Six	6 month	£5,000	7.75F

### FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	29,000	7.85
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	5 year	22,000	7.85	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	22,500	7.65	Yly
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811	5 year	£1,000	7.60	Yly

## CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

### CREDIT CARDS

Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 689000	0.64%N	7.90%N	NIL
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	0.64%NC	7.90%N	NIL
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	1.00%	14.00%	£12

## PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

### PERSONAL LOANS

Account	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3 yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3 yrs no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%N	£183.75	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.90%	£189.48	£166.54
Alliance & Leicester 0800 828282	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB: A = Minimum age 22 years. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = No interest free period. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period. NC = Interest paid on credit monthly. P = By Post only.

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

Source: Moneyfacts The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01822 500 677)

## PIBS

### FIXED RATE

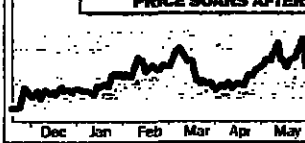
Gross coupon	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	120.75	7.760	100.17
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	149.00	7.800	100.13
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	166.50	7.810	100.20
Britannia 13.000%	166.75	7.800	100.42
Coventry 12.125%	156.00	7.770	100.75
First National 11.750%	152.00	7.730	100.25
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	172.25	7.760	100.23
Newcastle 10.750%	140.50	7.850	100.32
Newcastle 12.625%	164.75	7.860	100.45
Skipton 12.875%	167.50	7.890	100.48

### PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Gross coupon	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Chelt & Gloucester 11.750%	154.00	7.630	100.98
Halifax 8.750%	119.25	7.730	100.82
Halifax 12.000%	148.00	8.100	100.28
Halifax 13.800%	178.50	7.830	100.00
Bristol & West 13.380%	170.00	7.870	100.34
Northern Rock 12.625%	162.25	7.780	100.14

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. Source: NatWest Markets

## SHARE IN FOCUS: MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT



## LARGER LENDERS

### Building Societies

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.2.00
Cheltenham & Gloucester	5.75	to £300k	90	2.35% discount for 2 years
Natwest	4.95	£25-150k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Bank of Ireland	0.89	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths, 3% disc-6 mths
1189 510100	2.90	no max	90	Fixed to 1.11.98

## LARGER LENDERS

### Building Societies

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck	1.20	to £180k	95	7% disc-6 mths, 1% disc-12 mths
Scarlborough	0.99	£15-100k	95	7.24% disc-6 mths, 2% disc-6 mths, 0.5% 1y
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths, 3% disc-6 mths
1189 510100	2.90	no max	90	Fixed at 2.90% to 1.11.98

## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

### ALDO LIFE ASSURANCE

Unit	Offer	Why	Yld
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH42RE	100.00	100.00	10.00
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH42RE	100.00	100.00	10.00
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH42RE	100.00	100.00	10.00

### ABBIE LIFE

Unit	Offer	Why	Yld
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH42RE	100.00	100.00	10.00
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Clare Stewart says that collectors of all ages still go wild for teddy bears

## Bear essentials for buyers

The saleroom prices of Clarice Cliff pottery or Victorian wildlife paintings may fluctuate according to fashion but, say auctioneers, teddy bear collectors are less fickle. Their devotion is lifelong and unwavering.

With a number of pre-Christmas toy sales coming up at auction houses, it is a busy time of the year for teddy bears. On December 8 Christie's has its fifth annual teddy bear sale and this year is also commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Margaret Steiff, the founder of the leading German toy and teddy bear maker.

Together with vintage British and American bears, the Christie's sale includes a large number of Steiff bears, Steiff toys and associated memorabilia. Among these are bears dating from the early days of production in 1903 through to distinguished modern bears.

"It is a very buoyant market and the interest is worldwide," says Leyla Maniera, Christie's teddy bear specialist. Estimates for bears in the December sale range from £100 to £8,000. Among those at the top end is an early Steiff bear,

made in 1904 and in very good condition, suggesting that it has never seen active service as a child's toy. Just a little older is "Jonny", a large white Steiff bear, 28 inches high and dating from 1905.

Despite the high prices that some rare bears can fetch — the world record is £110,000 — you do not have to be very wealthy to start collecting. "Almost any bear with a maker's label made before 1970 is of interest to collectors,"

said Constance King, a bear and doll expert, whose book *The Century of the Teddy Bear* has just been published (Antique Collectors Club, £25).

Bears made between 1940 and 1970 can still be found for less than £100, says Ms King, while bears from the 1920s and 1930s are particularly desirable. For these, expect to pay upwards of £700.

Earlier examples, however, may cost thousands of pounds, depending on the

style of bear, its condition and origins. Teddy bears as a toy were less fashionable in the Sixties and Seventies so examples of well-made bears of the period are harder to find.

Collectors' interest in bears was first seen in the early 1980s, says Ms King, led initially at least by an interest from gay men in the US, inspired by Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* and Aloysius, the teddy bear companion of Sebastian Flyte.

buying purely because of an emotional rather than financial attachment. If it is a love of teddy bears that inspires you, then the advice is simple: buy what you like.

But if you wish to balance both interests, the experts say there are some key pitfalls to avoid. Beware the modern limited edition bears, says Constance King, because they are not necessarily a good investment. "Often, so-called limited edi-

ber 16. The bear dates from 1905 and is in the style of a dancing bear, complete with muzzle, and has an estimate of £5,000 to £7,000, but it could well fetch more.

Yvonne Bentley of Phillips says that other noted German manufacturers include Schuco, Bing, and Gebrüder Steinguth, whose output included Peter Bears. These were made to look rather more like real bears and came with alarming-looking teeth. The idea backfired, however. The bears frightened children and production stopped. Because relatively few were made, Peter Bears now fetch good prices.

English manufacturers are also sought-after, with leading names including Farnell, Chad Valley, Chiltern and Merrythought. "British bears are fighting back," says Kerry Taylor at Sotheby's. While prices for these manufacturers have risen strongly, they can still be found for less than many German makes and are a good starting point for novice collectors.

As with almost any other antique, provenance or knowing something of the history of an item adds value. This can take the form of association with a famous person or event. Teddy Edward, for example, fetched £35,000 at auction last year as the bear from *Watch with Mother*.

Value will be added if there is information about the previous owner, whoever the owner was. Among the lots at the Christie's sale is a German bear that is now a little battered, with an eye missing, but with a picture of his original owner, a young girl called Gwen, standing next to the then youthful bear in 1915. His price is estimated at £150-£200.

Contemporary connections are also valuable. Two limited edition Steiff bears are being auctioned at the Christie's sale in aid of Save the Children. The bears recently sailed around the world on the Save the Children Yacht in the 1996-97 BT Global Challenge Race.

For novice collectors looking for more information, the sale catalogues issued by auction houses can often provide much useful information about different manufacturers and types of antique teddy bears.

Makers such as Merrythought, based in Telford, also have collectors' clubs for enthusiasts, while other sources of information include museums, many of which have doll and toy collections.

Forthcoming sales include: Christie's, December 8 (0171-581 7611); Bonhams, December 11 (0171-393 3900); Phillips, December 16 (0171-629 6602); Sotheby's, May 28 (0171-493 8080).

It is a very buoyant market. Almost any teddy with a maker's label dating from before 1970 is of interest

Teddy bear collecting is now a widespread interest. The Japanese, for example, are noted buyers; it was a Japanese collector who paid £110,000 for Teddy Girl in 1994, a famous Steiff bear that belonged to another enthusiast, the late Colonel Henderson. He founded the charity Great Bears of the World, which distributes teddy bears to disadvantaged children.

Price and investment value may be irrelevant if you're

tion bears are just a basic bear but with a customised bow added," she says. It is also worth checking just how limited the edition; it may run into thousands.

The danger with such toys is that they are bought as an investment, and then kept pristine in their boxes. Consequently, there could be hundreds around in the future.

Similarly, quality reproduction bears made in the traditional style are in numerous supply. So even if kept in perfect condition they are unlikely to be rare and therefore sought after in the future.

A little more interesting as potential investments are artists' bears. These are hand-made bears, dressed in antique or expensive fabrics, and often unique. "These could be valuable in the future but only time will tell which makers will be in demand," says Ms King.

Older bears, usually taken to mean those dating up until the 1960s, remain the most desirable and most valuable, so much so that finding good bears is increasingly difficult. National and regional auctions of toys and dolls are one place to buy, although buying outside London does not necessarily mean lower prices.

Specialist toy and doll dealers can also be found at the many antique fairs around the country, and there are events such as the London International Antique and Artists Dolls, Miniatures and Teddy Bears Fair, which is held five times a year in Kensington Town Hall, London. The next fair is on February 15, with another on April 26 (0181-693 5432 for further details).

If you are buying older bears, good condition counts for as much as a maker's label. Also look for features such as unusual colours that may mean it is a rarer variety bear. Steiff bears are the most desirable, says Leyla Maniera. "They may not be the rarest but they hold their price."

Phillips, the auction house, has a Steiff bear as the centrepiece of its Christmas Toys and Dolls sale on Decem-

## Fair opportunity to check up on your antiques

Top antiques fair provides a far greater range of both antiques and dealers under one roof than any town or city can offer in such a concentrated area.

This weekend's Fine Art & Antiques Fair at Olympia, West London, is no exception, with 250 exhibitors, many of whom are members of the British Antique Dealers' Association (Bada).

Potential buyers certainly find it convenient to compare pieces with competitive prices, notably in period furniture.

All items on sale have been examined by expert committees to ensure that both the identification and labelling are correct. This is carried out by Bada members or the London & Provincial Antique Dealers' Association, academics or museum curators.

As a typical example, a pair of Victorian silver candlesticks which had been converted to take electricity with cut-glass bowls to hold the lamp were rejected — because the bowls were not contemporary.

Many investors like fairs in order to check on the correct date and identification — as well as the current value for insurance purposes — of pieces. Most events will not allow you to take personal antiques in, but take colour photographs of antiques, remembering to take one of the back, particularly for porcelain, and noting any marks on silver and ceramics, as well as dimensions.

Visitors to Olympia should not miss the loan exhibition. Miniatures, engraved 18th-century glass and medals commemorating the secret allegiance to the Jacobite cause, have been lent by Drambuie. A range of outstanding oak chairs from the 15th to 17th centuries, used by the

Aberdeen Burgess of Trade, never lent before, are on show, as is a remarkable 17th-century group of naive portraits of the Eskine family from the House of Dum in Scotland.

There are many modestly priced pieces suitable for Christmas: silver wine funnels, Stilton scoops, tankards, nutcrackers and lobster picks, alongside exquisite Flemish and German woodcarvings of angels from the 15th century.

One innovation is the "touch tours" organised for the blind and partially sighted. Working with the Royal National Institute for the Blind, ten dealers will help such visitors to feel works of art including jewellery, textiles and bronzes.

Pairs of glass decanters are popular, according to Christine Bridges. A good Regency pair has increased from £300 to £500 in 1992 to £500 to £800 and for Victorian from £200 to £300 to £350 to £550 today.

Stylish mahogany side tables have the benefit of being both decorative and useful. A George II card table, circa 1750, is offered by Hallidays of Dorchester-on-Thames, for £9,800, up from £6,500 to £7,000 five years ago, according to Tracy Hodges.

Bronzes, particularly equestrian, are a firm market. Ted Few, a London specialist, has a bronze statue of King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy on a horse, 27 inches in height, signed and dated 1917 by Walter Winans, the Flemish artist, for £6,500, up from £1,500 to £2,000 a decade ago.

The Olympia fair is open from 11am to 7pm today and 11am to 5pm tomorrow.

CONAL GREGORY



Ninety years on: a Steiff bear with a chair on which he was photographed in 1907 (£5,000-£7,000)



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If you go down to the sales you're in for a big surprise

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Is the smaller company making a comeback?



Anne Ashworth looks at the likely contents of Brown's consultative Budget

## Green feeling prompts nerves



## Inherit the earth — at a price

One of the tax-raising targets for next week's green Budget could be the £26 billion that is inherited each year (Caroline Merrell writes).

In spite of the vast fortune changing hands, the Exchequer only manages to raise about £1.4 billion from the 18,000 estates that end up paying inheritance tax. According to research from IFA Promotion, the organisation that promotes independent financial advice, under present rules £900 million of this tax could be avoided. At present only estates above £215,000 are taxed. It is also possible to give away certain amounts of

money before death without paying tax. A radical overhaul of the IHT rules could in future hit people such as Susan Opie, above, a 34-year-old book editor with HarperCollins. Ms Opie's grandmother died ten years ago, leaving Ms Opie as the only heir to the estate, the major part of the inheritance was a house in the country. Ms Opie said that the sale of the house raised "several thousand pounds" — the average size of an inheritance today is £18,000. If Ms Opie's grandmother had lived in the South East, then it is quite possible that her estate would have been above the

£215,000 exemption limit. Any amount above this is taxed at 40 per cent.

Ms Opie has recently decided to invest the money, after leaving it languishing in a building society for close to a decade. As deposit rates have not kept up with inflation over this period, Ms Opie's lump sum is now worth far less than it was when she inherited. Ms Opie said: "I decided in the end to put quite a lot of the money in to a personal pension. I was not aware until I went to my financial adviser that it was possible to put a lump sum into a personal pension."

Considerable speculation surrounds the contents of Tuesday's green Budget, despite the Treasury's valiant efforts to reassure nervous taxpayers that the statement will be "not a long list of policy announcements, but rather a setting-out of various government aims". Many are not persuaded that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will be content merely to foreshadow changes rather than introduce immediate reforms.

The Treasury is promising that there will be no retrospective measures in the Chancellor's statement. But Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountants, says that it is still possible that the Inland Revenue may independently issue press releases detailing measures to be included in the 1998 Budget, but having effect from November 25, 1997. This would enable the Chancellor to close immediately any loopholes that he finds unusually intolerable.

Mr Fitzpatrick said there was a precedent: "In October 1996, new rules were introduced for companies buying back their own shares. These were made applicable from the date of the Inland Revenue press release."

Rumours have emerged this week that company cars and the tax-free pension lump sum could be within Mr Brown's sights. Every Chancellor for the past decade has been thought to be long to abolish the tax-free pension lump sum. But any changes would be likely to be thrown open for discussion among interested parties for implementation at a later date. The taxation of company cars, another vexed issue, would also seem to merit further deliberation.

As Mr Brown believes that pollution would be reduced if they spent less time at the wheel, he is said to be considering taxing drivers for private mileage. To encourage employees to take public transport rather than drive their company cars, he would abolish the rule forcing workers to pay tax on season tickets provided by employers. However, observers point out that a private mileage basis for the taxation of vehicles would be as open to abuse as the old system and would create a bureaucratic nightmare for payroll departments.

Renowned targets for immediate action include various capital gains and inheritance tax concessions. Potentially exempt transfers (PETS) are seen as especially vulnerable. The PETS rules permit you to transfer an infinite amount of assets to your heirs. Provided you survive for seven years, these gifts will escape inheritance tax. John Battersby, of KPMG, the accountant, believes that PETS could either be abolished or made subject to a cash limit.

Mr Fitzpatrick suggested that the capital gains tax allowance of £6,500 may also be vulnerable. Each year an individual can make tax-free capital gains up to this limit. He said: "Some would argue that there is no logical reason why such an allowance should exist. Capital gains are now taxed at the same rates as income tax. This means that there is no necessity for a separate capital gains tax allowance."

There is pressure on Mr Brown to provide some further detail on the individual savings account (ISA), his proposed replacement for the PEP and the Tessa. However, Mr Brown's wish to ensure that the new account appeals to the low-paid is apparently delaying an announcement.

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WEEKEND MONEY  
is edited by Anne Ashworth

The Government this week delivered the strongest hint yet that it intends to wind down the state earnings-related pensions scheme (Serps). Speaking at a conference announcing proposals for the new-style stakeholder pensions, John Denham, the Pensions Minister, refused to say whether Serps, the additional state scheme for employees without company schemes, would be continued indefinitely.

He pointed out that the Government's manifesto only promised that Serps would be maintained for those in the scheme at present. In Opposition, Labour was savagely critical of Conservative plans to privatise entirely both the basic pension scheme and Serps. Stakeholder pensions are aimed at encouraging millions

## Pension changes could lead to the end of Serps

more to save for their retirement. Many part-timers, women and others with irregular earnings end up relying on the State in their old age. According to figures from the Department of Social Security, about ten million people in the working population rely only on basic and Serps pensions.

The Government wants the private sector to work towards providing low-cost, flexible and secure second-tier pensions. It believes stakeholder

pensions can run alongside the current state system as well as occupational schemes. The DSS envisages that contributions for stakeholder pensions should be deducted from earnings at source. The money deducted should be invested by financial services companies to provide an adequate fund for retirement. The Government suggested investment trusts and unit trusts as possible investment vehicles.

In light of the recent scandal

involving the mis-selling of hundreds of thousands of personal pensions, the Government is keen to ensure that those companies which provide stakeholder pensions do so within a certain number of prescribed criteria — so-called "Kitemarking" of products.

Mr Denham clearly indicated that the companies which failed to clear up their pensions mis-selling problems quickly enough would be barred from being involved in providing the new pension.

Mr Denham refused to be drawn on whether there had to be any degree of compulsion in the new schemes. He did indicate that many within the financial services community believed that compulsion was necessary.

CAROLINE MERRELL

## Far East forecast still stormy

Asian economies, including Hong Kong, may be on the verge of an economic meltdown that could send share prices tumbling worldwide, according to some Far East fund managers. Many are increasing their investment in bonds, a traditional haven when stock markets are turbulent, and are urging investors to do the same.

The turmoil in Asia has been well publicised, particularly last month, when falls in Hong Kong sent London's FTSE 100 into a nosedive. Nevertheless, some optimists have started predicting a turnaround in the region.

This cuts no ice with Ashok Shah, senior portfolio manager with Old Mutual Asset Managers, who has just visited Asia and is convinced that the region lacks the leadership to steer it towards recovery. He said: "Too many politicians and industrialists have personally benefited from economic policies which have left their countries up to their neck in debt, their stock markets in ruins and their currencies devalued. They have two options. They could take the medicine now and go through pain, or die — I believe they have taken the death option."

As a result, he says, property values in Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia will soon crash, dragging their banks, which have lent heavily on real estate development, nearer bankruptcy. Banks are already struggling because many of the companies they lent to have overexpanded and cannot generate sufficient exports to pay their debts.

Mr Shah believes that traditional methods of valuing the region's companies are useless. He said: "Whether you look at earnings per share, price-earnings ratios, cashflow or dividend yield, you just don't know what you are



Hong Kong residents are still shopping but also spend a lot of time praying

buying." He scotches any idea of buying at the bottom of the market for at least another year, by which time normal conditions may have resumed.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong and Japan are under pressure. The former British colony is desperately trying to maintain its currency peg with the US dollar in the face of a concerted effort by international speculators. However, Mr Shah believes the peg will be abandoned within six months as high interest rates bite into the population's pockets, even though this will make the high level of debt increasingly burdensome. As the recession grows and inflation falls, there will be less motivation to invest in property, the backbone of the Hong Kong economy. In Japan, already the

victim of an eight-year recession, the outlook is just as bad as exports to its Asian neighbours dry up.

With the darkening stormclouds in the East, the rest of the world should not feel immune, says Mr Shah. Where they were once entrepreneurial, Asian manufacturers are now desperate and will sell their goods for any price they can get. The result is bad news for manufacturers worldwide, but good news for Western consumers who will get cheap goods and low inflation. However, this is just the environment where our own stock markets will suffer. Bonds and shares in blue-chip companies with no Asian interests are the best options.

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